THE

HISTORY.

OF THE

Miss BALTIMORES.

VOL II.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE HISTORY, &c.

LETTER I.

COLONEL RAWDON TO SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE.

THE divine Lucy Chambers loves me, and thy friend Charles is happy; and now, my dear Edward, say that

you are ſo likewiſe, and my happineſs will be complete. My father approves my choice, and, more than that, tells the dear girl, if he thought he ſhould have any chance, he would make love to her himſelf. There are two things which allay my happineſs; the one is, knowing that you are not content, the other that my poor Charlotte is indiſpoſed with a cold; but, however, I hope it will be attended with no bad conſequence, and I likewiſe hope the next letter I have from you will tell me you have found your lovely couſins, and then thy friend Charles will

will be one of the happieſt mortals on earth.

Adieu, my dear friend!

Your's

C. RAWDON.

LETTER II.

SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE,

TO

COLONEL RAWDON.

TO hear of your happineſs, my dear Charles, always gives me pleaſure, but for my part, I don't believe I ſhall ever taſte it more; but, good God! how dare I repine? Am I not bleſſed with affluence, while my lovely Kitty and and her no leſs lovely ſiſter are, perhaps, in the arms of indigence, or, what

is

is worſe, expoſed to all the wiles and arts of our ſex? Oh, heavens! there is horror in the thought! --- To be ſure, I have heard, (if report ſays true) that they are gone to France as companions to two ladies, whither I am preparing to follow them; therefore, my dear friend, if you will let me have one more letter before I depart, it muſt be by the return of the poſt. I have, ſince I came here, met with a gentleman, whoſe father was a former intimate acquaintance of my dear uncle, Sir Edward Baltimore. It is a Colonel Sedly; he was at the Univerſity at the ſame time I was,

and, when I went to ſee my uncle, he generally went with me; but on my leaving college our acquaintance broke off; but ſince I came here, we have renewed it. He is a very agreeable young gentleman, and is likewiſe a great intimate of Carlton's. You will ſay, he is never the better for that, but I believe his Lordſhip would be worſe if it was not for him.

Adieu, my dear friend,

E. BALTIMORE.

LETTER III.

COLONEL RAWDON

TO

SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE.

My dear Friend,

WHEN I received your laſt letter, I was with Miſs Chambers; and ſo much did the contents chagrin me, that I could not hide it; and the dear girl made ſo many tender enquiries after the cauſe, that I ventured your diſpleaſure,

and told her the whole in few words. --- She ſaid nothing, but ſeemed affected. I ſoon afterwards took leave; but this morning, judge of my ſurprize, when calling at Lord Mourland's, the ſervant informed me, that Miſs Chambers and his lady ſet off for the country early this morning. I eagerly aſked, what part they were gone to, or if my Lord was at home? He ſaid no; and as to what part they were gone, he did not know, but at the ſame time gave me a letter, which I haſtily ſnatched, and found the following contents:

"SIR,

"SIR,

"I MAKE no doubt you will be very much ſurprized at my abrupt departure, but hope you will make yourſelf eaſy, when I aſſure you, that it is no fault of yours, but to ſerve your friend Sir Edward Baltimour, which occaſions it. When I think proper to diſcloſe the myſtery, I will write to your ſiſter, whom I hope will ſoon recover from her indiſpoſition: —p till then reſt content, and be aſſured I ſhall always remain,

SIR,

Your ſincere friend,

L. CHAMBERS."

Well,

Well, Edward, what think you of this? My miſtreſs gone to ſerve another man, and not to let me into the ſecret! Now, don't you think I have great reaſon to be jealous? But, my friend, if the dear girl can any ways ſerve you, it will render me completely happy. What ſhe has in her head I can't poſſibly divine, but, let it be what it will, I would adviſe you not to quit Bath juſt yet. My ſiſter, thank God, is much better, and I alſo have the pleaſure to inform you that ſhe has in a great meaſure recovered her charming ſpirits. Now, Edward, I hope very ſoon to hear that you have found, or at leaſt

heard

heard of your couſins; I don't care how ſoon, as well for your ſake, as to behold my adorable Lucy Chambers.

Adieu, my dear friend,

And remain your's ſincerely,

C. RAWDON.

LET-

LETTER IV.

MISS CHAMBERS

TO

THE HON. MISS RAWDON.

Bath,

Dear Miſs Rawdon,

I Arrived here laſt Monday night, and on Tueſday morning went, without any previous notice; (which, by the by, I blamed myſelf very much for, as the dear

girls turned as pale as death) but Lady Modely being there, it gave them time to recover. She immediately recognized, and ſaluted me in a very friendly manner. As ſoon as the uſual compliments were over, I deſired to ſpeak to the eldeſt Miſs Mountfort, for that is the name they go by here. You, my dear Charlotte, may eaſier gueſs, than I deſcribe, the joy we each of us felt at this (to Miſs Baltimore) unexpected meeting. I told them, (for by this time Harriot had joined us) I was come to ſerve them; and then related, in few words, what I had heard from you, and your brother. A-propos, — how does

that

that ſame brother of your's do, my dear? does he bear my loſs like a man, or is he whimpering like a ſchool-boy? but, to go on; I, at the ſame time told them, that they muſt be governed by me, and conform, in every ſhape, to my will and pleaſure; which they, with a ſmile, agreed to. I then took my leave, telling them, I ſhould perhaps ſend next day, and deſired they would come immediately; then bidding them adieu, hurried home to Lady Mourland. We ſtarted a thouſand ſchemes, before we could hit upon one plauſible enough to bring Sir Edward Baltimore to our lodgings. As I had no acquain-

quaintance, or even knowledge of him, I could not think of any method to bring it about, but telling him the whole affair, which I did not like, as I wanted to ſurprize him. While we were in this perplexing dilemma, Colonel Sedly was anounced, who is an intimate acquaintance of Lord and Lady Mourland's, and I aſſure you a very great favourite of mine. After the uſual compliments were over, he begged to know, what had brought us to Bath without his Lordſhip? My Lady anſwered, that ſome important buſineſs of mine had brought me, and ſhe had come with me for company ſake; as for my Lord,

he

he had ſome affairs to ſettle, which rendered it impoſſible for him to attend us. My Lady, in the courſe of converſation, aſked the Colonel, if he knew Sir Edward Baltimore? he ſaid yes, he knew him very well. We then both ſaid, if he would wiſh to oblige us, he would, the following evening, bring Sir Edward to tea, as we wanted very much to be acquainted with him. He anſwered, with a ſmile, he was very ready to oblige us, but if we had a deſign upon his heart, it would not do, in ſpite of all our charms, as he was pretty ſure he was already engaged. Some more company coming in, put an end to our converſation,

verſation, and the Colonel ſoon afterwards took his leave. To be ſhort, my dear, the next evening brought Colonel Sedly, Sir Edward Baltimore, the two Lady Modelys, Lady Mary Lenox, and the two Miſs Harringtons, to our houſe, to tea. When they were all come, I ſent a card to the two Miſs Mountforts, deſiring their company at eight o'clock. A little before the time I expected them, I turned to Sir Edward, and bluntly aſked him if he had ſeen his couſins lately? he turned firſt pale, and then red, at the ſame time, ſaying, no, madam, I have not; I wiſhed to God I had. Indeed, my dear, I felt for him;

him ; I turned from him to the two Lady Modely's, and deſired to know whether they ſhould recollect the two Miſs Baltimores ? They, with the two Miſs Harringtons, anſwered, they believed they ſhould. Lady Mary ſaid, ſhe had never ſeen them; and Colonel Sedly replied, they were ſo young, when he ſaw them laſt, he ſhould not have the leaſt knowledge of them. As to Sir Edward, he ſaid nothing, therefore turning to him, you Sir, ſaid I, I make no doubt, would know them. I am afraid I ſhould not, he returned, as we were very young, when we parted; but for God's ſake, madam, (riſing, and taking my hand,

with

with ſuch a wildneſs in his looks as made me ſhudder) for God's ſake, madam, (repeated he) why do you aſk thoſe queſtions? at that inſtant the door opened, and the ſervant announced the two Miſs Mountforts — All eyes were fixed on the door; when I repeated Miſs Mountforts. I know no ſuch name; but they entering at the ſame time, I exclaimed, good God! the two Miſs Baltimores! Surprize now was plainly depicted in every countenance; but all on a ſudden, our attention was called to Sir Edward Baltimore, who, uttering a deep groan, ſunk on the floor, without ſenſe or motion. This nearly reduced

duced his ſweet couſins to the ſame condition: good God! my dear, how I then repented bringing them together in this clandeſtine manner. When he recovered, he ſtarted up, and taking Kitty by the hand, exclaimed, my God! how could I take you for any other than the lovely Kitty Baltimore! you my dear, may eaſier gueſs, than I deſcribe, the ſcene that followed between the three couſins. As for the reſt of the ladies, they ſeemed quite at a loſs what to ſay; and therefore Colonel Sedly attending them, took their leave. As ſoon as they were gone, Lady Mourland and I left the room, and by the time we returned

to

to them again, they were upon the beſt footing imaginable. Sir Edward has offered his hand and fortune to Kitty; as for Harriot, ſhe it ſeems was provided with a huſband long ago; for Colonel Sedly had offered to marry her, before he could have the leaſt intimation of her birth and connections, therefore I am ſure he deſerves her. As for the buſineſs, they have given it up to their young women. Now, my dear, there is nothing wanting but your preſence, that of Lords Rawdon, Lovel, Mourland, and a ſomebody elſe (who ſhall be nameleſs) to complete our felicity. If any of you have any goodneſs, you will

ſet off immediately for Bath; therefore my dear, with this wiſh, I will bid you adieu.

Your's,

L. CHAMBERS.

P. S. If you chooſe to ſhew your brother this, you are welcome.—Adieu.

LETTER V.

THE HON. MISS RAWDON

TO

MISS CHAMBERS.

I Have taken up the pen, juſt to inform my dear Lucy, we are all (that is Lord Mourland, my father, brother, and ſelf) preparing to ſet off for Bath. I ſhall ſay nothing, till we meet, of the pleaſure we

took in reading your pleasing recital of the lovers rencountre. Adieu, my dear Lucy, till we meet.

Your's,

C. RAWDON.

P. S. My brother writes himself.

LETTER VI.

LORD CARLETON

TO

THOMAS MARTIN, ESQ.

WELL, Martin, it is in vain longer to conceal what I hitherto have endeavoured to hide from myſelf; but love, all powerful love,

has at length conquered thy wild friend; yes, Tom, it is no other than the all beautiful Charlotte Rawdon, who has inſpired it. But I will endeavour to be more conciſe. Yeſterday, Sedly, (who by the by is going to marry the young lady I mentioned in one of my former letters) came, and told me, that Miſs Rawdon, with her father, and brother, were coming to Bath. O, Tom! what did I not feel at that moment? indeed I felt ſo much, that I directly laid, my whole heart open before him. Or elſe you may aſſure yourſelf, Tom, you would not have been the firſt who would

have known it. As Sedly has always proved himſelf not only the warmeſt, but ſincereſt friend I ever had; and I can juſtly ſay, that I have never concealed one of my faults (which have been pretty numerous, to my ſhame be it ſpoken) from him, and I muſt own, he has never ſpared me an inch; but that is what I eſteem him for, and next to him your worſhip is the one, I have moſt regard for: — well, where did I leave off? — with telling you Miſs Rawdon was come to Bath. After conſulting together what was beſt to be done, we concluded, that I ſhould pretend to leave Bath; but at the ſame time, only go two

miles off; and then Sedly told me, if he found me really ſincere in my repentance, he would try to do ſomething for me. So, Tom, here am I pent up in a ſort of farm-houſe, till dame Fortune pleaſes to pay me a viſit, and ſhe will be a ſorry jade, if ſhe forſakes me now. Well, Tom, I have been looking over what I have wrote, and if I write a ſtroke more, ſhall be in the vapours; therefore adieu.

Your's,

G. Carleton.

P. S.

P. S. I have ſeen my charmer once on horſe-back, from my window, and ſhe looks more lovely than ever.

LETTER VII.

THE HON. MISS RAWDON

TO

MISS MILFORD.

Bath, Jan. 23d.

I Arrived at this place laſt Tueſday; and next Thurſday, my dear Emily, is to join ſix of the moſt amiable people in the world, viz. Sir Edward and Miſs Kitty Baltimore; Colonel,

Colonel Sedly, and Miſs H. Baltimore; and laſt of all, Colonel Rawdon, and Miſs Chambers: ſo you ſee, my dear, I am the only one of the Rawdon family, unprovided for; and I fancy I ſhall remain ſo. Heigh ho! my dear! is it not a pity that Lord Carleton ſhould have rendered himſelf ſo obnoxious to our family? but I cannot here omit giving you a little anecdote, concerning him, which I heard from ſeveral, and in particular from Colonel Sedly, who ſtill continues a warm friend, in ſpite of all his faults.

SOME time ago, as Lord Carleton was walking in a ſolitary mood, a boy begged charity of him, which his Lordſhip at firſt refuſed; but the boy ſtill continuing to preſs him, he turned about, and aſked him, if he had no father nor mother: The child anſwered, he had both, and it was to help them he thus begged his charity. My Lord, touched with his recital, bid him ſhew him to the place where his father and mother were. The boy did as his Lordſhip deſired; but, good God! when he entered, what a ſcene did he behold! the father ſtretched on a miſerable bed, ſeem-

ingly without ſenſe or motion; the mother ſitting by his ſide, pale, and almoſt breathleſs; and a lovely girl, who ſeemed to be about ſixteen, kneeling on the other ſide the bed. When my Lord beheld this ſcene of horror; he was unable to utter a ſyllable, for ſome minutes. As ſoon as he had power to ſpeak, he turned to the boy, and giving him money, bid him fetch a bottle of wine, which he ſoon procured; when my Lord taking it out of his hand, poured out a glaſs, and giving it to the woman, made her drink it; then pouring another, gave it to the girl, to give her father; and at the ſame time, putting

five guineas into her hand, bid her be comforted, telling her, he would ſend a friend to them in the afternoon. He then found out Sedly, and telling him the whole, begged he would go to them, and enquire into the cauſe of their diſtreſs; in ſhort, my dear, through his Lordſhip's bounty, the old people were ſet up. To their daughter he gave two hundred pounds, and ſhe is married to a young farmer, who has long loved her; and the boy his Lordſhip has put to a ſchool. All this he had done through the hands of the Colonel, as he has never ſeen them ſince the firſt day. Every body is full of his praiſe,

the

the Brownlow family having been always regarded, as deſerving people. Well, my dear, I muſt again repeat it — don't you think it is a pity that his Lordſhip has rendered himſelf ſo deſpiſable in our eyes? Adieu, my dear Emily, for I am ſo tired, that I can't write a ſtroke more.

Your's,

C. RAWDON.

LETTER VIII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

WELL, my dear, the weddings are over, and I will venture to ſay, never were three couple better matched in the kingdom. In about three weeks we ſhall all ſet off for town, where I hope to have the pleaſure of ſeeing my dear Emily. Sir Edward Baltimore had a letter from Lady Charlotte, yeſterday, wherein

wherein ſhe tells him, ſhe is married to a Captain Marchmont, in the Guards, and that they ſhall ſoon be in England. I have no other news to write; therefore adieu, my dear Emily.

Your's,

C. RAWDON.

LETTER IX.

RIGHT HON. LORD CARLETON,

TO

T. MARTIN, ESQ.

GIVE me joy, Tom, give me joy! Charlotte Rawdon, the divine Charlotte Rawdon loves me! Yes, Tom, I again repeat it, ſhe loves

loves me! I was riding or rather walking my horſe, about a week ago, when another paſſed ſo rapidly by me that I hardly knew whether it was mortal or not, till I heard the ſcream of a woman. I ſtaid for no more, but putting ſpurs to my horſe, gallopped, or rather flew after her, and got juſt time enough to receive her in my arms, as ſhe was falling to the ground, unable to keep her hold any longer: But, good God! Martin, what were my ſenſations when I beheld the lovely Charlotte Rawdon! --- In a few minutes ſhe opened her lovely eyes,

and

and faintly exclaiming, Lord Carleton! cloſed them again. Good heavens! what would I at that moment have given to have had ſomebody near me! I preſſed her cold hands to my lips a thouſand times, invoking heaven and earth to recover her. At length my prayers were heard, and the dear angel opened her lovely eyes.--- A faint bluſh overſpread her cheek, as ſhe tried to diſengage herſelf from my arms; but I ſtill ventured to detain her in them, begging her not to be alarmed, but to aſſure herſelf ſhe was quite ſafe: She ſaid, if I would wiſh

to oblige her, I would ſee her ſafe home to her father's. I immediately complied, at the ſame time offering my arm to ſupport her, which the dear creature was forced to accept, as ſhe was not able to walk without help. We then proceeded, and I made ſuch good uſe of my time, that I obtained ſomething like a promiſe of forgiveneſs before we reached home. They were all aſtoniſhed to ſee me with her, but I ſoon informed them of the reaſon: My Lord, and the Colonel, coldly thanked me for my ſervice, and ſoon afterwards

wards I took my leave; but the next morning ventured to renew my viſit, and had the ſatisfaction to find myſelf received by the whole family in a very different ſtile from that on the day before, the dear girl herſelf not excepted, who thanked me for my protection, with a ſweet ſmile of complacency. In ſhort, Tom, through Sedly's interceſſion, and my own eloquence, I have made my peace, and now am received as Miſs Rawdon's lover. --- I begged for an early day, and next Thurſday ſeven-night is to make me the happieſt

happieſt of men. Adieu, Tom, for my angel calls.

Yours, as uſual,

G. CARLETON.

LETTER X.

HON. LADY CARLETON,

TO

MISS MILFORD.

WHAT do you think, Emily? They tell me that I am married! Impoſſible! Charlotte Rawdon can never ſo tamely have parted with her liberty! But hold, here is Lord Carleton; let's hear what he

he has to ſay. Well, my dear, it is even ſo, and your once gay friend is dwindled into a ſober wife. You know, Emily, it is an old ſaying, that a reformed rake makes the beſt huſband, and I really believe it; for that Lord Carleton is that very thing, a reformed rake, every body here is willing to allow; but as we ſhall poſitively be in town by next Friday, you may then judge for yourſelf.

Therefore, my dear Emily,

I remain, yours ſincerely,

C. CARLETON.

P. S. I had the honour of a visit from Lady Charlotte Marchmont, to give me joy on the occasion.

LETTER XI.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD CARLETON,

TO

THOMAS MARTIN, ESQ.

London, March 25th.

WELL, Martin, I have been married now three weeks, and never did I taſte true happineſs till this time. You ſee, by the date of this, where we are; but in about three weeks time we ſhall ſet off for our reſpective country ſeats, and do you know, Tom, I never

more ardently wiſhed for any thing than the time we are to ſet off in my life! At preſent we are at Lord Rawdon's houſe, except Sir Edward and Lady Baltimore; that couple ſeems to be a pattern of conjugal happineſs; the deſerving Sedly and the no leſs deſerving Harriot a moſt generous and happy pair; the lively Colonel Rawdon and his no leſs lively Louiſa ſeem to live but for each other, but at the ſame time will enjoy all the pleaſure this vain world can afford; as for my charming Charlotte and ſelf, I ſhall leave nameleſs, as it is impoſſible to deſcribe our happineſs: And now, Martin, let me give you a word of advice;

advice; if ever you intend to taſte true happineſs, leave your preſent purſuits, and marry ſome deſerving woman; for, take my word, that is the beſt way to be happy. We men of pleaſure think marriage ſuch a bugbear, but believe me, it is all a miſtake, for there is more pleaſure to be found in a virtuous connection than all the looſe ones you men of pleaſure may form. Therefore, Martin, take my advice, and, as you have hitherto followed my evil ſteps, now follow my good ones, and let me perſuade you to marry. We ſhall ſet off for the country to-morrow morning, but ſhall be in town

againſt the birth-day, when I ſhall be glad to ſee you, and will then introduce you to my adorable.

Adieu, my dear friend,

And believe me to be

Your's ſincerely,

G. CARLETON.

LET-

LETTER XII.

LADY BALTIMORE,

TO

THE HON. MRS. RAWDON.

Weſtbury-Park.

My dear Louiſa,

I HAVE juſt ſet down to tell you, that I think I may now venture to ſay my happineſs is complete. Have I not, my dear, got the man I loved from my infancy! and is not that man endowed with

every requiſite to adorn his ſex! So, my dear, I think, was I not contented now, I ſhould deſerve to go through all the trials over again which I have hitherto ſuffered; but ought I to call them trials, when they have been the means of rendering me ſo ſuperlatively happy! In ſhort, there is nothing left me to wiſh or deſire, except it is, praying the Almighty to prolong my Edward's days; but hark! I hear his voice, therefore will bid you adieu!

And remain your's, ſincerely,

K. BALTIMORE.

P. S.

P. S. We ſhall be in town by next Monday, where I hope to meet with you and the reſt of my dear friends. Adieu!

LETTER XIII.

T. MARTIN, ESQ.

TO THE

RIGHT HON. LORD CARLETON.

London,

I HURRIED to town in hopes of catching your Lordſhip before you quitted London, but was too late. I wanted to ſee you much, but before I proceed to my own af-

fairs, will talk a little about your's. So, George, you are really married! Well, much good may do you! -- As for your letter of ſober advice, I ſhall paſs it over, as before a twelvemonth is at an end, I think you will repent it. With regard to Sedly, I wiſh he may prove the friend you have always taken him for. I ſhall long for the time of your coming to town, for it is deviliſh dull at preſent, and if it was not for this curſed law ſuit, I would not be here now; but the lawyers are ſo dilatory, and the cauſe ſo intricate, that it renders it impoſſible to be done in a

hurry. Adieu, George! for I have nothing farther to ſay, but beg you will write ſoon:

And remain your's,

T. MARTIN.

LETTER XIV.

COLONEL SEDLEY

TO THE

RIGHT HON. LORD CARLETON.

Dear George,

MY dear Harriot and I received your letter laſt Monday, and it made us very happy to hear you and your amiable-ſpouſe were in health. My Harriot, Lady Baltimore, Sir Edward, and ſelf, are all well, and perfectly happy, but we all regret very much the birth-

day's

day's being so near; as the country is so delightful, we are loth to quit it. Mr. and Mrs. Rawdon come to this place to-morrow, and in about a week's time we shall all set off for London, where we hope to meet you and Lady Carleton. I have nothing farther to add, but begging you to present our compliments to your Lady,

Remain, dear George,

Your affectionate friend,

J. SEDLY.

LET-

LETTER XV.

T. MARTIN, ESQ.

TO

ROBERT BOYLE, ESQ.

O, BOB! I am almoſt mad! Would you believe it, Carleton is married; yes, and by that means has blaſted all my hopes: Curſe on Sedly, on her brother, and all the

the world beſide. I hardly know what I ſay, but will now try to explain myſelf. You know, Bob, about nine or ten months ago, you was called to your old dying father; about that time Carleton had formed a ſcheme of carrying off Miſs Rawdon: He came to me, telling me I muſt be one of the principal actors in it; at the ſame time ſaying, ſhe will be at the play to-night, where I propoſe being alſo, and want you to go with me. Well, to make ſhort of the ſtory, we went, and Carleton took care to place himſelf and me exactly oppoſite the box where ſhe was to ſit. She ſoon afterwards entered, with

with another lady and gentleman. When I came to examine the young lady, I found her to be exceſſively handſome, and aſked George who ſhe was, and what fortune ſhe had.

He made me the following anſwer.---Why, Tom, ſhe is youngeſt daughter to Lord Rawdon, and the only unmarried one: He had two married, and they had fifty thouſand pounds a piece; but this has ſeventy, as an old aunt, who died ſome time ago, left her twenty thouſand, for ſhe was always a great favourite of the old lady's: But, you muſt know, Tom, it is not ſo much her fortune that I want

want as herſelf, as I think her one of the loveliest women on earth. Next Wedneſday there is to be a maſquerade, where I hear ſhe is to be, and where I propoſe being alſo. You muſt go with me, as perhaps I ſhall have occaſion for ſome of your aſſiſtance.--- Here George ended his long ſpeech, and ſome more people coming into the box prevented my making any reply. When I came to conſider, I thought, if I could by any means get this lady for a wife, it would ſet me up. In ſhort, Bob, I concluded on the following ſcheme. As ſoon as Carleton got Miſs Rawdon, he propoſed taking her to his

ſeat

ſeat in Wales, where I was to join them. Then I propoſed telling the lady a long ſtory, that I was come to reſcue her from the hands of his Lordſhip, and that ſhe might depend on my ſeeing her ſafe to her father's, if ſhe would truſt herſelf with me. You may be ſure, Bob, I had no intention of taking her to town, but intended to take her a croſs road, and ſo get into Scotland, where I would have forced her to have married me. This I could have done very well, I dare ſay, as they could not have gueſſed where ſhe had been carried: But the devil juſt then had a mind to play me a

trick;

trick; for before Carleton had got her half way, they were overtaken by her brother, and George was ſuch a confounded fool to give her up to him; and now he is married. Death and fury! I could tear the ground up; but I only wait for their coming to town, when I hope to revenge myſelf. If I could but make a difference between that fellow Sedly and George, I ſhould be able to carry on my ſchemes better; but, however, I will leave all to time.--- I have nothing farther to add; therefore adieu!

T. MARTIN.

P. S.

P. S. I have juſt heard that Carleton and his Lady will be in town next Tueſday.

LETTER XVI.

LADY CARLETON,

TO

MISS MILFORD.

London

WE arrived here laſt Tueſday, and ſhould have wrote to my dear Emily ſooner, if I had not been taken up with mantua-makers, milliners, hair-dreſſers, and ſo forth. As for my dear Lord, he is not very

very well, as he has got a ſad cold. He calls, ſo adieu for the preſent!

Sunday, ten o'clock,

I TOLD you, yeſterday, my Lord was to introduce a Mr. Martin to me. I muſt own I think he has ſomething very forbidding in him. I will give you his picture, Emily. He ſeems to be about ſeven or eight and twenty, complexion rather dark, his eyes are dark likewiſe,

wiſe, and rather inclinable to a kind of ſquint, which, in my mind, renders him very diſagreeable; his forehead is high, his noſe and mouth are awry; and, if I am not miſtaken, his mind is as diſagreeable as his perſon. Well, my dear, ſo much for Thomas Martin, Eſq. --- My brother Charles has taken a charming houſe in Cavendiſh-ſquare. Sir Edward and Lady Baltimore are at preſent with Mr. and Mrs. Sedly, as they propoſe quitting town as ſoon as the birth-day is over. --- Well, my dear, I have no other news to write, and, beſides, ſhall have

have but juſt time to dreſs for dinner; therefore adieu!

Your's,

C. RAWDON.

LETTER XVII.

T. MARTIN, ESQ.

TO

ROBERT BOYLE, ESQ.

WELL, Bob, laſt Tueſday Carleton and his lady arrived in town; and on Saturday I went to pay him a viſit. He was very glad to ſee me; his lady was not there; but ſoon after I went in, he called her down, telling her, he had a friend

friend to introduce her to. When ſhe came in, this, my dear, (ſays he) is Mr. Martin, a gentleman you have often heard me ſpeak of; and this lady, my dear Tom, is my wife, who has done thy wild friend the honour to take him for better for worſe. I ſtaid about an hour, and then took my leave, you may be ſure, Bob, to plot miſchief. I aſked after Sedly, he ſaid, he was very well; he and his lady, continued he, are to dine here on Tueſday, with Sir Edward, and Lady Baltimore, and if you will come, Tom, I will preſent you to them. You may be ſure I conſented to it; and as this is the day, muſt bid you

adieu, to prepare for my visits, but will resume my pen on my return.

Your's,

T. MARTIN.

LET.

LETTER XVIII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Tueſday Evening, 9th of October.

WELL, Bob, here am I, juſt returned from my viſit, and muſt own I have been entertained very agreeably: there was a great deal of company, and among the reſt Lady Charlotte Marchmont. Don't you remember a young lady, two or

three years ago, who was called Lady Charlotte Herbert? but ſoon afterwards ſhe was married to a Sir Edward Baltimore. However, the old fellow is dead, and ſhe is married to this Marchmont; but I don't believe ſhe is very happy with him, as I have heard ſay, he only had her for her jointure, which is twelve hundred a year, beſides ready money. Now you muſt know, ſhe is as errant a coquette as ever exiſted; therefore if I could bring it about for her and Carleton to have a little intrigue together, it would, I make no doubt, make his lady jealous; then if I can by any means raiſe a doubt in Carleton's breaſt, of his lady's

lady's honour, it will do very well. You will, very poſſibly aſk, how I propoſe to manage that? Sedly is often here, and George and his wife make very much of him: now, if I can infuſe into Carleton's ear, that Sedly and her ladyſhip make too free, he may, by my turning and winding him about, propoſe ſetting me as a watch over his wife's conduct. This, I at firſt may refuſe, but at length, by his perſuaſions, and to ſerve a man, I have ſo much regard for, conſent to; then by that means, you know, Bob, I ſhall have free acceſs to the lady, and death — who knows what may follow. —— Adieu, my dear

Bob, I wiſh you was here, when you ſhall know more; as it is impoſſible to commit every thought to paper.

Your's ſincerely,

T. MARTIN.

LET.

LETTER XIX.

LADY CARLETON

TO

MISS MILFORD.

GOOD God! my dear Emily, what a vile ſcheme have we juſt diſcovered! we can never be thankful enough to Providence, that it has been found out ſo ſoon. My God! what uneaſineſs might it not

have been productive of! It makes me ſhudder even now, but I will try and give you an account of the affair. I believe I told you in my laſt, that my Lord was rather indiſpoſed with a cold. Colonel Sedly ſent a card, to invite my Lord and me to dinner. On Thurſday, the day we were to go, my Lord, at breakfaſt, ſaid, "my dear, my cold is ſo bad, I can't go to Sedly, to day, but beg you will; and make my excuſe." I tried all I could, to perſuade him to let me ſtay at home alſo; but all in vain, he ſaid, he had much rather I would go; at the ſame time ſaying, Martin has promiſed to come and keep

me company. Well, my dear, I went, but could not be perſuaded to ſtay longer than eight o'clock. When I came home I muſt own I was very much ſurprized to ſee Lady Charlotte Marchmont, who I mentioned to you in my laſt,* ſetting cloſe to my Lord, on one ſide, and the villain Martin on the other. My Lord, ſaid, rather in a ſurly tone, hey! my Lady you are ſoon returned from your viſit: to make ſhort of my ſtory, my Lady, and Mr. Martin ſoon took their leave, but I thought my Lord behaved very

* This letter does not appear.

have been productive of! It makes me ſhudder even now, but I will try and give you an account of the affair. I believe I told you in my laſt, that my Lord was rather indiſpoſed with a cold. Colonel Sedly ſent a card, to invite my Lord and me to dinner. On Thurſday, the day we were to go, my Lord, at breakfaſt, ſaid, "my dear, my cold is ſo bad, I can't go to Sedly, to day, but beg you will; and make my excuſe." I tried all I could, to perſuade him to let me ſtay at home alſo; but all in vain, he ſaid, he had much rather I would go; at the ſame time ſaying, Martin has promiſed to come and keep

me company. Well, my dear, I went, but could not be perſuaded to ſtay longer than eight o'clock. When I came home I muſt own I was very much ſurprized to ſee Lady Charlotte Marchmont, who I mentioned to you in my laſt,* ſetting cloſe to my Lord, on one ſide, and the villain Martin on the other. My Lord, ſaid, rather in a ſurly tone, hey! my Lady you are ſoon returned from your viſit: to make ſhort of my ſtory, my Lady, and Mr. Martin ſoon took their leave, but I thought my Lord behaved very

* This letter does not appear.

different to what he has done ſince we have been married, but ſtill I imputed it to his not being well. However, yeſterday Martin came to breakfaſt: after our repaſt, my Lord took up the news-paper, and I went to my tambour. We had not been in this ſituation above a quarter of an hour, when a ſervant entering, told my Lord, a gentleman begged to ſpeak to him directly. A few minutes after he had quitted the room, Martin came, and drew his chair cloſe to mine, under a pretence of examining my work. At laſt he broke forth, don't you think my Lord's cold continues bad a long time, madam? why, indeed

deed (replied I) I am very uneaſy about him, I wiſh I could perſuade him to have ſome advice. I lifted up my eyes from my work, and was ſurprized to ſee with what concern he looked. Good God! my blood boils at the artful diſſembler; but to go on — what a pity ſo much innocence ſhould be deceived? muttered he to himſelf. You, my dear, may think how this amazed me; and more ſo, when taking my hand, good Heavens! madam, what would I give if he was here? Interrupted by a ſervants coming in, who announced Mrs. Sedly, I cried with ſome haſte, where is your maſter, John? he is with Mr. Boyle, ſtill, madam.

madam. Mr. Boyle! repeated Martin, then I am betrayed. With theſe words, he ran out of the room. I had hardly time to recollect myſelf, when my Lord entered, followed by another gentleman. He flew to me, exclaiming, at the ſame time time, my God! how could I a moment doubt you? Where is that villain? cried he: here, my dear, (preſenting me with two letters) read theſe, and it will explain the vile plot. The letters I encloſe for your peruſal, Emily, and when you have read them, tell me if ever you heard ſuch a villainous ſcheme. How it will be concluded, I know not; but as ſoon as it is decided,

will

will write again: Adieu, for the preſent.

Your's

C. CARLETON.

LET-

LETTER XX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

My dear Emily,

GOOD God! How have I been alarmed for my huſband's life. The wretched Martin is no more: as ſoon as I had finiſhed my laſt, I went down ſtairs, and found Mr. Boyle in the parlour, with a letter in his hand; but on my entering,

he haſtily put it into his pocket, and ſoon afterwards quitted the room. I, for my part, was alarmed, for fear my Lord ſhould challenge Martin, as he went out in the morning, and has not yet returned. I ſent for Mrs. Rawdon, and Mrs. Sedly, (as for Sir Edward, and Lady Baltimore, they are ſet off for their country ſeat.) Think how happy it made me; when my Lord came home to dinner, he brought Mr. Boyle with him. I aſked ſeveral queſtions about Martin, but my Lord evaded them all. About eleven Mr. Boyle took his leave, as my Lord could not perſuade him to accept of a bed in our

houſe

houſe. We ſoon afterwards retired ourſelves; but ſo many ideas crouded into my mind, that I could not get to ſleep for two or three hours. At length, my Lord finding me ſo uneaſy, told me, that Martin had decamped, but that he and Sedly had ſent in ſearch of him. Though I did not much believe this, yet it quieted me for the preſent, and I ſoon afterwards fell aſleep; but my God! think how alarmed I muſt be, when waking, about ſix o'clock, I found my Lord not there. I rang for my maid, and had juſt hurried on my cloaths, when I heard a knocking at the ſtreet door. I flew down ſtairs, expecting every moment

moment to ſee my huſband's corps, but juſt as I got to the bottom of the ſtairs, he flew to me, crying, why are you out of your bed at this time, my angel? My God! are you ſafe, ſaid I? He tried to put me back, but turning my head towards the door, I ſaw Martin brought in, to all appearance dead, between the ſervants. I ſaw no more, as the ſight quite overpowered me. When I recovered, I found myſelf on the bed, my huſband by me. I begged him to tell me the particulars, which he did, in the following manner. I ſent a note (ſaid he) to Martin, to deſire he would meet me in Hyde-park, at five

ſive o'clock this morning. I got there about half paſt four, but was ſurprized to ſee two men fighting, which I ſoon diſcovered to be Martin and Boyle. Juſt as Sedly and I came up, Martin received a thruſt in his ſide, and inſtantly dropped, crying, all is over with me, Boyle. You are clear; I provoked you to fight. This, my dear, is all I know. I aſked him, if the poor wretch was dead, he ſaid, he was. The next morning Mr. Boyle gave me the following letter:

To

To R. Boyle, Eso.

BOB, as you have thought fit to act as you have done, your life ſhall pay for it, therefore meet me tomorrow, in Hyde-park, by four o'clock.

Your's,

T. Martin.

Mr. Boyle went as he directed him, and then followed what I have already related. Mr. Boyle is honourably acquitted, but talks of going abroad. Good God! my dear

dear Emily, if this vile ſcheme had taken place, what muſt have become of me. It has really ſhocked me ſo much, I don't know when I ſhall come to myſelf. We ſet off next Sunday for Carleton-Abbey, where all our friends are to join us, and if my dear Emily has any regard for me, ſhe will come likewiſe.

Adieu, my dear friend!

Your's ſincerely,

C. CARLETON.

LETTER XXI.

HON. LADY CARLETON,

TO

MISS MILFORD.

I Need not tell my dear Emily, how loth I was to part with her. We ſhall now in a very ſhort time ſet off for London, for the winter. I hope now, my friend, my happineſs is complete, as my Lord ſeems quite content with me and our

ſweet

ſweet little boy, who grows charmingly; we have already made a match for him and little Miſs Sedly. As for Lady Baltimore's Edward, he is to wait for my little girl; ſo you ſee, my dear, we have ſoon matched our children: as for Mr. and Mrs. Rawdon, I have the pleaſure to tell you, they ſeem to have overcome the loſs of their ſweet little girl, pretty well.—I have nothing more to add, therefore adieu, my dear Emily, and believe me to be,

Your's ſincerely,

C. CARLETON.

LETER XXII.

MISS MILFORD

TO THE

HON. LADY CARLTON.

I HOPE your Ladyſhip is ſo well aſſured of my friendſhip, that you will believe me ſincere, when I declare I rejoice at your happineſs in poſſeſſing the affection of your Lord, and the pleaſing proſpect of an heir to his eſtate and title. —

Mr. Boyle has paid me a viſit, and related the unfortunate adventure between him and the villain Martain, in ſo humane, and at the ſame time manly a ſtile and manner, that I muſt own prejudiced me not a little in his favour. Though I am ſo unfaſhionably religious and unpolite as not to approve of dueling, I think, if excuſe can be admitted, Boyle ſtands juſtifiable in ridding ſociety of a wretch, whoſe glory it was to ſtab the reputation, and wound the peace of a profeſſed friend. A man, who from a real principle of feeling can thus ſtand forth to vindicate the wrongs of others, muſt be a reſpectable mem-

ber of ſociety, and I am inclined to think, cannot fail of making a good huſband. To be plain, my dear, the beauties of Boyle's mind have attached me to his perſon, and I perceive a kind of reſiſtleſs *penchant* for the fellow. I beg you would not by any means diſcloſe the important ſecret, leſt the hero ſhould grow proud of a conqueſt, and play the tyrant, which in love, is, of all the whims of paſſion, moſt tormenting. — Commend me to all friends; to Lord Carleton in particular; and believe me to be

Your's moſt ſincerely,

EMILY MILFORD.

LETTER XXIII.

HON. LADY CARLTON

TO

MISS MILFORD.

MY dear Emily's friendly and ſenſible letter, gave me the greateſt pleaſure and ſatisfaction, as I ſincerely wiſh the merited fate of a worthleſs individual may bring about the union of two ſuch reſpectable

ſpectable characters as Mr. Boyle and Miſs Milford. — To be happy in the married ſtate, great men tell us, there muſt be a ſimilarity in general opinion: I muſt own I was not guided by that maxim, when I gave my hand to Lord Carleton; but I am now covinced, that if ever love made a convert from gallantry to conſtancy, his Lordſhip is as errant an huſband as ever was ridiculed by the wit of libertine, and ſtands a living proof of the old adage, "that a reformed rake makes "the beſt of huſbands." — One day, as you may remember you wrote me from Bath, was to join ſix of the moſt amiable people in

the world: that day happily arrived, and I hope from the reſpect I bear the parties, will long be held ſacred to the anniverſary of conjugal bliſs. When, when, ſhall I have the pleaſure of congratulating, my dear Emily, on the like happy occaſion? You enjoin me to ſecreſy as to your *penchant* for Boyle; but if I remember right, or can judge of the ſex from my own feelings, you muſt give me leave to put my own conſtruction upon your requeſt; and, from reverſing the matter, take the firſt opportunity of hinting to Mr. Boyle, that he has had the honour of being mentioned with reſpect by

Miſs

Miſs Milford. I will pledge my veracity on the effect of the hint, for I am perſuaded a man of Boyle's principle and diſcernment, cannot be inattentive to the notice of a lady, poſſeſſed with the higheſt mental and perſonal endowments.

I remain your's, &c.

C. CARLETON.

LETTER XXIV.

HON. LORD CARLETON

TO

ROBERT BOYLE, ESQ.

Dear Bob,

AS you know I am dwindled into a very huſband, you will not be ſurprized at my immediate compliance with the requeſt of a wife. It ſeems her good friend Emily Milford,

Milford, has taken ſome pains to diſcloſe to her, in confidence, a ſneaking kindneſs for Bob Boyle, and no leſs pains to enjoin her to ſecreſy. — My Charlotte, who is not wanting in the diſcernment of female fineſſe upon love occaſions, immediately ſaw through the artful guiſe, gave Emily to underſtand ſhe perfectly comprehended her meaning, which, under the influence of the little blind boy, generally ſubſtitutes no for aye; and aſſured her ſhe would take the firſt opportunity of hinting the matter to the object of her regard, conſcious that a man of Boyle's good ſenſe and ingenuous principles

could not be unaffected by ſo reſpectable a prepoſſeſſion in his favour. Some unknown cauſe having deprived us of the pleaſure of a viſit from our good friend and ſocial companies for a few days; Lady Carleton grew extremely anxious for freeing her dear Emily from a very diſagreeable ſtate of ſuſpenſe, and requeſted me to repreſent to you the opinion conceived by the young Lady in your favour; hoping, in conſequence, to tranſmit ſuch intimation as might afford the agreeable proſpect of a return of affection: — This, then, is the ſum and ſubſtance of the preſent epiſtle, it is brief and conciſe,

ciſe, though highly important and intereſting; and though eaſily joined, we cannot be disjoined but by death, requires deliberation and ſerious attention.

I am,

Your's ſincerely,

CARLETON.

LETTER XXV.

ROBERT BOYLE, ESQ.

TO THE

HON. LORD CARLETON.

Dear George,

YOUR laſt favour ſurprizes me as much as it puzzles me to anſwer. Little did I think that on putting a period to the exiſtence of an aſſaſſin, I ſhould commence the æra

æra of love. Indeed I diſcovered ſome faint bluſhes in the countenance of the lovely Emily, on my recital of the unfortunate rencounter; but this I attributed rather to a noble and generous impulſe, than any prepoſſeſſion in my favour.—Had I conceived the cauſe, as I have the ſatisfaction to find from your repreſentation it really was; I ſhould have improved it to every advantage, for I conſole myſelf in the very idea of reciprocal affection with ſo lovely, and ſo reſpectable an object. Your Lordſhip is a living, a glaring proof of the influence of beauty united to virtue: you have ranſacked the world

in

in queſt of perſonal charms, which you no ſooner enjoyed, than the appetite palled, and by that means you was inceſſantly harraſſed with continual purſuit. Now you have caſt anchor, and repoſe on the downy pillow of virtuous love. I have had my youthful follies, and my youthful ſallies, and moſt ingenuouſly own, that I wiſh to be indiſſolubly tied by the Gordian knot of one object. My better ſtars through your direction, point to the lovely Emily Milford; nor will I loſe a moment in conveying the ſentiments of my heart to the adorable fair. In a ſhort

ſpace

ſpace you may, perhaps, hail me as *Benedick* the married man.

I am

Your Lordſhip's

Humble ſervant,

R. Boyle.

LETTTER XXVI.

R. BOYLE, ESQ.

TO

MISS MILFORD.

Madam,

I TAKE up my pen to write on a ſubject to me entirely novel, and as I am conſcious of the rectitude of my intentions, ſhall wave all apology as foreign to the matter I wiſh

wiſh to communicate. There may appear in my manner of addreſs a bluntneſs unadapted to an humble ſuitor, but when I aſſure you that my declaration of love proceeds from the heart, I flatter myſelf, if I judge rightly of your diſpoſition, it will have a greater and more permanent effect than all the parade of ſounding epithets or flowing periods. I received the good opinion you entertain of me as communicated by Lord Carleton, with all the glow of the moſt exquiſite ſenſation, and ſhould deem myſelf the moſt obdurate of mortals, did I not endeavour at leaſt to make an adequate return. — It is

my

LETTTER XXVI.

R. BOYLE, ESQ.

TO

MISS MILFORD.

Madam,

I TAKE up my pen to write on a ſubject to me entirely novel, and as I am conſcious of the rectitude of my intentions, ſhall wave all apology as foreign to the matter I wiſh

wiſh to communicate. There may appear in my manner of addreſs a bluntneſs unadapted to an humble ſuitor, but when I aſſure you that my declaration of love proceeds from the heart, I flatter myſelf, if I judge rightly of your diſpoſition, it will have a greater and more permanent effect than all the parade of ſounding epithets or flowing periods. I received the good opinion you entertain of me as communicated by Lord Carleton, with all the glow of the moſt exquiſite ſenſation, and ſhould deem myſelf the moſt obdurate of mortals, did I not endeavour at leaſt to make an adequate return. — It is

my

my ſpeculative opinion that minds congenial muſt conſtitute the happineſs of the matrimonial ſtate, into which I muſt ingenuouſly confeſs I had no idea of precipitating myſelf, till urged by the impulſe of a flattering perſuaſion that Miſs Milford thought kindly of her humble ſervant. The eventual cauſe of your notice I could wiſh had not occurred, as if I had known any thing of my heart, I hold the life of my fellow creature as dearly as my own, and ſhudder at the thought of being acceſſary to its deprivation: but as it proceeded from a deſire of vindicating injured

injured innocence, and wreſting an amiable female character from the efforts of malevolent traduction, I ſtand juſtified by my own conſcience, and hope it will plead my cauſe with the ſex in general. I have now, Madam, only to ſolicit the favour of an interview, which may furniſh an opportunity of enlarging on the theme, the pleaſing theme barely hinted on the preſent occaſion. Will you deign to notice my humble requeſt, and permit me to hope that the return of the poſt will convey the favour ſolicited: till then, I am all impatience, for I burn with deſire of telling my

adoreable

adoreable fair with what devotion, love and eſteem, I am, and ſhall ever remain

Her moſt obedient

Humble ſervant,

ROBERT BOYLE.

LET-

LETTER XXVII.

MISS MILFORD

TO

ROBERT BOYLE, ESQ.

SIR,

THE polite world may deem me unfashionable in complying with a suitor's first request; for I know most of our sex love a good deal of courting, lest they may be thought too

too forward. I have made up my opinion as to that matter, and am determined the law of cuſtom ſhall never bind me, unleſs it appear to be founeed on truth and reaſon. You addreſs me with frankneſs and ingenuity. Your declarations ſeem to be the dictates of good ſenſe, honeſty, and candour; and I ſhould think myſelf deſtitute of thoſe feelings that are eſſential to human happineſs, could I ſuffer them to paſs by unnoticed. Mr. Boyle may indulge the expectation of an interview, which in point of time depends on himſelf. I perſuade myſelf he is too much the gentleman to take an illiberal advantage of the

open

open behaviour of a frail female; nay I am certain, that as a man of honour, he muſt diſdain even the thought of a baſe action. But why ſhould I ſurmiſe an improbability, or harbour a thought that Mr. Boyle can deviate from himſelf? Adieu to reflection.

Your's,

EMILY MILFORD.

LET-

LETTER XXVIII.

THE HON. LADY CARLETON

TO

MISS MILFORD.

WELL, my dear Emily, I find the plan has ſucceeded; my Lord, at my requeſt, gave the hint to Boyle, who immediately broke through the rules of form, made the aſſault like a warm and paſſionate lover,

lover, and it ſeems from what I have heard whiſpered among our friends, is likely to ſucceed. Lady Baltimore and Mrs. Sedly did me the honour of a viſit, yeſterday, and made me happy beyond expreſſion, in ſeeing the extreme ſatisfaction they appear ſo evidently to derive from their union with Sir Edward and the Colonel. The diſſipated world may laugh at the marriage bond, and libertines and coquets may ridicule the idea of conſtancy; but let me tell you, Emily, that an enſlaved mind is the wearieſt of drudges, and that there can be no real liberty, but that which reſults from conſcious virtue --- by a kind

of happy fatality, a ſhort ſpace of time has produced an union among a ſelect circle of friends, that at preſent ſeems to promiſe the moſt agreeable conſequences. We have the pleaſure of congratulating each other, on our mutual bliſs; and contrary to the opinion and practice of the beau monde, one object appears, to engroſs our attention and regard. Our viſits are frequent, and we enjoy the pleaſure of ſociety unalloyed by rancorous envy, and heightened in participating our general bliſs. --- I have dwelt on the ſubject of matrimony; becauſe I hope my dear Emily will ſoon enter into that honourable ſtate. We

all long to give you joy on the occaſion, and hail the moment, in which you gave your hand to Mr. Boyle. --- You both ſtand in equal eſteem with your acquaintance in general, and I ſincerely wiſh that my next epiſtolary addreſs may be to Mrs. Boyle.

I am,

Your's moſt cordially,

C. CARLETON.

LETTER XXIX.

COLONEL SEDLY

TO

R. BOYLE, ESQ.

Dear Bob,

I Was extremely happy to hear at Lord Carleton's, that you had conceived a paſſion for Miſs Milford, or rather that ſhe had previouſly conceived a paſſion for you. However that circumſtance may be, whether

whether antecedent or conſequent, is of no importance; ſuffice it therefore to ſay, that the expected event diffuſes a general joy throughout the circle of your friends. Carleton informs me, that you have indulged an humourous vein on the ſubject, and talked of being hailed as Benedick the married man. Be not dejected, Sir, upon good ground make the trial; you have lately ſeen many inſtances of the daring attempt; and have I the conſolation to add, not one of the parties have hitherto repented. Carleton is another creature, abſolutely transformed, and exhibits a moſt ſtriking proof of the prevalent influence of female merit.

Indeed where there remains a ſpark of ingenuity in the diſpoſition of man, nothing can awaken his feelings ſo effectually, as the kind offices of an amiable woman. Sir Edward and Lady Baltimore made us happy by a viſit a few days ago; we paſſed many hours in the moſt pleaſing converſe, and I reflected with Sir Edward, on the heart-felt ſatisfaction, of having been providentially acceſſary in reſcuing two moſt reſpectable female characters from a ſtate of dependence, and advancing them to a ſituation in ſome degree equal to their worth. You ſee Bob, in matrimonial affairs I am become almoſt an enthuſiaſt; my Harriot,

by

by her endearing attention, fans the flame, ſo that you muſt pardon theſe rhapſodical ſallies, and believe they proceed from a heart ſuſceptible of the moſt paſſionate impreſſions.

Adieu!

SEDLY.

Indeed where there remains a ſpark of ingenuity in the diſpoſition of man, nothing can awaken his feelings ſo effectually, as the kind offices of an amiable woman. Sir Edward and Lady Baltimore made us happy by a viſit a few days ago; we paſſed many hours in the moſt pleaſing converſe, and I reflected with Sir Edward, on the heart-felt ſatisfaction, of having been providentially acceſſary in reſcuing two moſt reſpectable female characters from a ſtate of dependence, and advancing them to a ſituation in ſome degree equal to their worth. You ſee Bob, in matrimonial affairs I am become almoſt an enthuſiaſt; my Harriot,

by

by her endearing attention, fans the flame, ſo that you muſt pardon theſe rhapſodical ſallies, and believe they proceed from a heart ſuſceptible of the moſt paſſionate impreſſions.

Adieu!

SEDLY.

LETTER XXX.

MRS. SEDLY

TO THE

HON. MRS. RAWDON.

My dear Louiſa,

MY ſiſter I find has been before hand with me in acquainting you with the completion of her happineſs. That information I am perſuaded, you received with pleaſure, nor

nor can I admit a doubt, that you will be leſs delighted, when I aſſure you that the poor and once unfortunate Harriot Baltimore, is made the moſt bleſt of women, in having been honoured with the had of Colonel Sedly — Misfortunes and diſappointments in life are irkſome while we labour under them; but when the dark ſcene is changed, and the face of things brightens upon us; they ſerve to heighten our felicity; for none can ſo truly reliſh the gifts of fortune, as thoſe who have known the want of them. To perſons accuſtomed to affluence and its concomitant accomodations, as well as reſpectability in early life; a reverſe

of circumſtances peculiarly poignant. Of this, neither myſelf nor my dear Kitty could be inſenſible; however we reconciled matters as we could, patiently waited the event of time, and are now gratified to our moſt ſanguine wiſhes. If our trials have been ſevere, our endurance has been fully repaid; and perhaps, if we had not been ſo particularly circumſtanced, we ſhould never have known the happineſs we now ſo fully enjoy — Apropos, — report whiſpers that Mr. Boyle is on the point of marriage with our dear friend Emily Milford. It ſeems ſhe was vanquiſhed by heroiſm, in the affairs of the wretched Martin. I muſt own

I wiſhed

I wiſhed to have her in the nooſe with the reſt of us, and I fancy the period is not very diſtant, as I underſtand both parties are equally impatient till the knot is tied.

I am

Your's ſincerely,

H. SEDLY.

LETTER XXXI.

THE HON. MRS. RAWDON

TO

MRS. SEDLY.

My dear Harriot,

YOU find I take the earlieſt opportunity of communicating to you the infinite pleaſure I feel in the happineſs you expreſs, from your union with Colonel Sedly — He was ever eſteemed by all who knew him,

a

a worthy character; exemplifying in his general conduct, the ſoldier and the gentleman. But, he derives the greateſt honour from diſcerning merit, under the veil of misfortune, and raiſing dejected virtue to that rank it juſtly demands. My dear Charles has been lately very much indiſpoſed, and I have laboured under the moſt alarming apprehenſions of his loſs. Good Heavens avert the fatal ſtroke, nor let me live to follow the bier of the moſt loving, and moſt beloved of men. But to turn from the melancholy ſcene — you intimate, that we ſhall ſhortly have another wedding, and conſequently an opportunity

tunity of congratulating our reſpectable friend, Emily Milford, on her nuptials with Mr. Boyle. I ſent a card of invitation to her, this morning, and expect her company to a party at quadrille, to-morrow evening — I am told ſhe is over head and ears in love, ſo that it is probable, ſhe may be more diſpoſed to pour over ſonnets, than to dip into the hiſtory of the four kings. I expect Lord and Lady Carleton to be of the party, and have acquainted Lord and Lady Baltimore, if they are diſengaged, that we ſhould be extremely happy if they would join us. You know we wave ceremony, eſteeming freedom upon proper

prin-

principles, the life and ſoul of ſocial intercourſe. You will preſent my beſt reſpects to the Colonel, with ſincere wiſhes for the perfect reſtoration of his health, particularly as conducive to the happineſs of my dear Harriot, whoſe I remain as ever.

L. RAWDON.

LETTER XXXII.

RIGHT HON. LORD CARLETON

TO

R. BOYLE, ESQ.

THE birth-day being over, and the ceremony on that occaſion paſſed through, I propoſe in a few days with my dear Charlotte, ſetting off for our country ſeat, in order to imbile a little freſh and fragrant air.

I heard

I heard lately at Colonel Rawdon's, that the day for your nuptials with the lovely Emily Milford is fixed for next week. You muſt therefore permit me, at the requeſt of Lady Carleton, to deſire the favour of your ſpending ſome time with us, as I think nothing contributes more to advance the felicity of united lovers, than the pleaſures of rural retirement. In town we are all noiſe, hurry, and buſtle; ſcene continually ſucceeds to ſcene; we have ſcarce a moment to reflect; from upriſing to down lying, the mind is perpetually agitated with trifles, and upon the whole my opinion, contrary to my former ſentiments

timents is, that nothing can be more irkſome or palling, than the life of a man of faſhion in London --- Be entreated then to join us with your amiable bride at Carleton-Hall; I am perſuaded we ſhall paſs many happy hours, as I flatter myſelf there cannot be a doubt entertained on either ſide, of the ſincerity of our friendſhip --- Lady Carleton moſt anxiouſly wiſhes to hail her dear Emily as Mrs. Boyle; and is induced to believe, you think every day a year, till your happineſs is completed. The great world is diſtracted with politics, and the general cry is about the ins and the outs; but that is a topic on which I am

deter-

determined never to ſpend a moment's thought.

Providence has afforded me a competence, and I am determined to enjoy it. Adieu, 'till we have the pleaſure of ſeeing you and Mrs. Boyle, which we hope will be very ſoon.

I remain your's,

CARLETON.

LET-

LETTER XXXIII.

R BOYLE, ESQ.

TO THE

RIGHT HON. LORD CARLETON.

Dear George,

YOUR warm and friendly invitation calls for the ſincereſt acknowledgment, which you, together with Lady Carleton, will pleaſe to accept both from me, and in behalf of my adorable

adorable Emily. We could have wiſhed your Lordſhip and Lady, would have graced our nuptials with your preſence; but as you expreſs much diſguſt at continuing in town, I cannot be urgent on the occaſion. I perfectly coincide in opinion with you, as to the pleaſures of rural retirement; and hope ſhortly to have the exquiſite enjoyment of the ſame in that particular inſtance to which you ſeem to refer. A few days elapſed, the parade and ceremony attending thoſe occaſions will be over; indeed it is our determined reſolution, to uſe as little as poſſible. As my Emily was invited

to be

to be preſent at Bath, at the marriage of her three particular friends, Kitty and Harriot Baltimore, and Louiſa Chambers, though buſineſs of importance detained her in town. I have invited thoſe ladies, with their ſpouſes, who will compoſe the whole of the company. — Poor Lady Carleton (then Miſs Rawdon) lamented her fate in an epiſtle to Emily, and uttered upon the occeſſion a melancholy heigh ho! as the only one of the Rawdon family unprovided for. But now ſhe can boaſt the beſt of huſbands, and glory in poſſeſſing ſuch charms and ſuch influence, as to have made a real convert of a profeſſed rake.

May

May your bliſs be long continued and unalloyed, is the prayer of

Your's,

R. Boyle.

LET-

LETTER XXXIV.

MISS MILFORD

To

LADY BALTIMORE.

Thurſday Noon.

Dear Kitty,

NOT many months ago I was made happy by the joyful news of your having been wedded at Bath, to your very reſpectable relative Sir Edward Baltimore. The particulars

culars of the interview, and the fortunate circumſtances that followed it, I read as related in a letter from Colonel Rawdon's lady to her ſiſter-in-law, now the honourable ſpouſe of Lord Carleton, in a manner which adds grace to the delicate feelings of the polite writer. It ſeems, the humane deſign of that very benevolent lady, was to find out her two unfortunate friends in their obſcurity, having received a perſonal deſcription of you, from a gentleman of her acquaintance. She had conceived and executed the ſcheme with wonderful adroitneſs,

and ſo conducted matters as to introduce Colonel Sedly in the luckieſt moment, and thereby render him the means of introducing his good friend Sir Edward Baltimore, to an unexpected interview with his lovely couſins. But why ſhould I recount to you a ſtory that can never loſe it's impreſſion on your mind. It is pleaſing to call to remembrance the happy events of our life; you will therefore in your wonted goodneſs of diſpoſition, pardon a trifling digreſſion --- You muſt have heard of my *penchant* for Boyle; the cauſe from whence it aroſe, and I ſhould ſuppoſe, from your connection

tion with ſome of my boſom friends, and its whole progreſs, from the hour I diſcloſed my paſſion, and received his plighted vows, to the moment in which the day was fixed for the conſummation of our happineſs. The buſineſs of the preſent epiſtle is to invite you to the celebration of the nuptials, which is fixed for Saturday morning next, at ten o'clock, at St. George's, Hanover-Square. No excuſe can be admitted, ſo take warning, and be prepared. I have written to Mrs. Sedly on the ſame buſineſs, and been as peremptory as to her compliance. Boyle requeſted the ho-

nour of Carleton's preſence, with that of his Lady, on the occaſion; but on his Lordſhip's intimating great diſguſt at continuing any longer in town, and the ſtrongeſt deſire of reviſiting Carleton-Abbey. The requeſt was waved, on condition that we ſhould take the earlieſt opportunity of ſpending ſome time with them in the country. The hour approaches that fixes my future fate; I have read, and I believe that there is no alternative in the ſtate into which I am about to enter: it is for better and for worſe: be it ſo — Courage, child; I will boldly venture,

venture, and truſt my Boyle with all I hold moſt dear.

Adieu, till Saturday morning.

E. MILFORD.

LETTER XXXV.

LADY BALTIMORE

TO

MISS MILFORD.

My Dear Emily,

ONE would imagine by the flights of your laſt, that love had affected your intellects. It is an old maxim, that there is "a pleaſure in madneſs which none but mad-men know:" the ſame I believe might be ſaid

ſaid of love; at leaſt the clauſe might be ſoftened into, "there are raptures in love which none but lovers feel."—Some little experience I have had myſelf, though I cannot boaſt to have ſoared ſo high as you.

I muſt candidly own, you bring to my memory, ſome agreeable events, and that I have reflected on them with heart-felt pleaſure and ſatisfaction. Your invitation I communicated to Sir Edward, who will do himſelf the honour of attending as well as your friend and humble ſervant. Colonel Rawdon, and his lady are, I hope, of the party, they

are reſpectable characters, and will promote the general felicity.

Your's,

C. BALTIMORE.

LETTER XXXVI.

COLONEL SEDLY

TO

R. BOYLE, ESQ.

Dear Bob,

MY Harriot has ſhewn me Miſs Milford's polite invitation to the celebration of your intended nuptials, which I propoſe to myſelf the pleaſure of attending. — Lord Carleton, I find, has declined, from a ſqueamiſh diſguſt to this town, and all its amuſements, and a de-

terminate reſolution of precipitately withdrawing himſelf to his villa. — That new convert to conſtancy and ſobriety ſeems to excel us all in a rigid attachment to the rules of preciſion, and the pleaſures of rural retirement. For my part, I wiſh ever to avoid extremes, and as I would not be fantaſtically volatile on the one hand, ſo neither would I be ſententiouſly dull on the other. There is a medium, called the golden mean, which ſhould direct us in all human affairs. The advice given to Phaeton, in Ovid's Metamorphoſis, is a leſſon worthy of univerſal attention, — "The middle path is the ſafeſt." —

Your lovely Emily was detained in London by ſome indiſpenſible buſineſs, and we were therefore deprived of the pleaſure of her preſence on the memorable day which joined ſix warm friends in the ſacred band. Your happineſs I hope to be both eye and ear witneſs to; and, from a knowledge of your diſpoſitions, entertain not a doubt of its continuance during life. I have not found matrimony to be that frightful thing repreſented in ſo odious a light by many; indeed, I had made up my mind both as to the reſolution and the perſon before I had the leaſt intimation of my Har-

riot's birth or connections. If I may have been deemed by ſome unguarded in an affair of the laſt importance, my credulity has been amply compenſated, for I find in the adorable object of my choice all that my heart can wiſh or deſire. That you may experience the ſame is the fervent prayer of

Your ſincere friend,

J. SEDLY.

LET-

LETTER XXXVII.

ROBERT BOYLE, ESQ.

TO

COLONEL SEDLY.

Dear Sedly,

WITH this I close my epistolary correspondence, till the dismissal of more important matters shall afford vacant time for resuming my pen. Well! you find your old friend will be caught in the noose at last. An heart of adamant cannot be proof against the

arrow

arrow of the little blind boy: — Batchelors may talk ſtoutly, but the ſtouteſt will bend at the ſhrine of love: Don't you think I am an expert ſcholar? — It is ſurprizing what a rapid progreſs we make in any ſyſtem, when prompted to the purſuit by propenſity of diſpoſition.

We have warned our friends, made every neceſſary preparation, and wait with impatience the ſolemn, though joyful occaſion.

You have given me ſome excellent lectures on the advantages of the married ſtate; indeed the general happineſs I have had lately had

the pleaſure of ſeeing diffuſed throughout the circle of our friends, not only conſoles me as attached to their intereſts, but affords me the moſt brilliant proſpect, as to the event of the tranſaction in immediate view. — My dear Emily has written largely on the ſubject to Lady Baltimore, with a moſt preſſing invitation, and received in return ſome very friendly and pleaſant repartees, which at once indicate the good ſenſe and candour of her ladyſhip. — I need not enjoin you to punctuality in attendance, Emily having ſecured that point with your Lady; therefore

fare-

farewel till the wished morning arrives.

Yours with truth,

R. BOYLE.

LET-

LETTER XXXVIII.

THE HON. MRS. RAWDON,

TO

MRS. SEDLY.

So, I underſtand, my dear Harriot, that Mr. Boyle, the gallant avenger of perfidy in friendſhip, is to be married in a day or two to Miſs Emily Milford. At the requeſt of Lady Baltimore, ſhe has ſent me a preſſing invitation to the wedding, which I can by no means de-

decline; eſpecially, as I find Sir Edward, the Colonel, and his dear Harriot are to be of the party. — I think, when the approaching ceremony is over, we may deem the link of friendſhip perfected, as there will not remain one of our juvenile intimates in the unmarried ſtate, and the ſeveral matches have been confined within the limit of a particular circle of acquaintance. — My Colonel has been lately indiſpoſed with a cold, but, thank Heaven, is now much better, ſo that I have prevailed on him to accompany me, and I think we ſhall form a moſt agreeable and happy ſociety. —— The re-

turn

turn of theſe occaſions revives in the memory the ſcene of our own union, and if it has proved eventually fortunate, muſt be attended with the moſt pleaſing reflections. It ſeems, from what I can learn, that it will be a match of inclination, not of what is falſely termed intereſt; from which we have every ground to congratulate the parties on the commencement of their mutual happineſs. To ſay that thoſe who enter into the bonds of matrimony from the forbid principles of aggrandizing either their name or their property, are actuated by genuine motives of intereſt, is a groundleſs and abſurd notion;

notion; for if by intereſt we are to underſtand our preſent and future felicity, if minds are not congenial, real bliſs muſt be excluded from the ſtate, nor can the mines of Peru in that caſe procure it. — But why do I preach to you on a ſubject, when I am ſo perfectly convinced of your fixed opinion concerning it. — If pure affection, detached from every paltry idea of an inferior nature, ever joined a happy pair, it muſt have been in the inſtance of Colonel Sedly and the amiable Harriot Baltimore, whoſe ſincere friend

Will ever remain

LOUISA RAWDON.

LETTER XXXIX.

MRS. SEDLY

TO

THE HON. MRS. RAWDON.

METHINKS, my deareſt friend, I wait with the greateſt impatience for the arrival of the happy day when we ſhall meet by invitation to congratulate the gallant Colonel Sedly and his agreeable conſort, on what it is to be hoped will prove the moſt fortunate tranſ-

action of their lives. You have favoured me with ſome brief, but pertinent remarks upon the main conſideration that conſtitutes matrimonial bliſs, and I have the pleaſure of being experimentally confirmed in your opinion. — You know the hiſtory of my life, which has been chequered with variety of fortune: I had been cruelly treated, together with an amiable ſiſter, by an unfeeling relation; we were baniſhed from the ſociety of our equals, conſigned to a temporary oblivion, and reduced to the neceſſity of following an employment much inferior to our former rank, and the proſpects in life we had a

right

right to entertain. In this forlorn ſituation the benevolent Lucy Chambers was amongſt the foremoſt to go in queſt of her unfortunate friends, at the inſtance of the worthy Sir Edward Baltimore. Heaven ſeemed to have ſmiled on the undertaking, and to have rendered your kind wiſhes, my dear, happily conducive to bring about a reſtoration to our former rank. Of your ſervices I ſhall ever retain a moſt grateful ſenſe, which, indeed, have ſo effectually impreſſed my ſiſter, that ſhe hardly ever ſees me without mentioning Mrs. Rawdon with the warmeſt regard and moſt profound reſpect:

reſpect: Apropos, my ſiſter and Sir Edward were at our houſe yeſterday, kindly enquired after you and the Colonel, and ſeem to promiſe themſelves abundance of pleaſure from our general interview at the wedding. ---- I have only to add, that my beſt wiſhes attend you, as I ſhall ever remain

Yours ſincerely,

HARRIOT SEDLY.

LET-

LETTER XL.

ROBERT BOYLE, ESQ.

TO

THE RIGHT HON. LORD CARLETON.

Dear George,

I TAKE the earlieſt opportunity of acquainting you, that my happineſs is at length completed, being poſſeſſed of the treaſure of my ſoul, and the enjoyment of all I hold dear. ---- Many former events in life have afforded me ſatisfaction, but never did I expe-

rience ſuch heart-felt pleaſure as upon the late occaſion. Sir Edward and Lady Baltimore, Colonel and Mrs. Sedly, Colonel and Mrs. Rawdon, did us the honour of their preſence, and ſeemed to partake moſt ſenſibly of the general joy. ---- Our friends exhibit the moſt ſtriking examples of matrimonial bliſs, and I hope we ſhall add to the number of thoſe who, freed from the diſquietudes of roving life, center their affection on one object, and calmly repoſe on the downy pillow of virtuous love. --- Lord Mourland favoured me with a congratulatory line from the country; he ſeems of late to have

ſeceded from the ſociety of his former acquaintance; and I have obſerved in him, ſince the marriage of the lovely Louiſa Chambers with Colonel Rawdon, a kind of affected reſerve and diſtant behaviour, without being able in any degree to account for the cauſe. I hope he poſſeſſes too good a heart to envy the happineſs of a worthy couple, for whom he profeſſed the ſincereſt friendſhip; if ſo, his malevolence will be amply retaliated on himſelf; for envy, of all the baſer paſſions, is the moſt tormenting. —— As ſoon as I can arrange matters in town, we ſhall do ourſelves the pleaſure

of accepting your kind invitation to Carleton-abbey. A little country air will be ſalutary, and the pleaſing reflections which rural retirement naturally ſuggeſts, contribute not a little to enhance the pleaſures of the mind. My dear Emily joins me in reſpectful compliments to Lady Carleton, and I have the honour to ſubſcribe myſelf

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt obedient Servant,

ROBERT BOYLE.

LETTER XLI.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD CARLETON,

TO

ROBERT BOYLE, ESQ.

Dear Bob,

YOUR late friendly epiſtle afforded me the extremeſt ſatisfaction, as it communicated the completion of your happineſs, on which Lady Carleton deſires to join me in the warmeſt congratulations.—I cannot allow myſelf to attribute the cauſe of Lord Mourland's

reſerve and moroſeneſs to an envious diſpoſition, becauſe I think him too noble of ſoul to harbour in his breaſt ſo vile a fiend as that deſpicable paſſion. It is, in my opinion, a kind of conſtitutional foible, which occaſionally breaks forth; though I muſt hold any man culpable who does not uſe every effort to ſuppreſs it. We ſhall expect your arrival, with your amiable conſort, at Carleton-abbey, every day, where nothing will be wanting that can contribute to your accommodation or felicity. We have ſome ſingular characters about us, that will afford you entertainment, and probably ſome in-

inſtruction. Our curate, to whom I give a general invitation, is a man every way worthy of notice and regard: He is a gentleman, a ſcholar, and a Chriſtian, and exemplifies in private life the precepts he publicly recommends to the practice of others: His family is large, and his income very narrow, as he labours under the oppreſſion of a dignified pluraliſt, whoſe duties he performs in two pariſhes for the ſcanty pittance of forty pounds a year, though the amount of the living produces the unworthy poſſeſſor more than eight hundred; nevertheleſs, my good friend is chearful and reſigned,

being bleſſed with that patient ſubmiſſion and unaffected humility ſo very rarely to be found amongſt the gentlemen of the gown.— Such a man I hold it my bounden duty to venerate and cheriſh, as well as to contribute in ſuch proportion as my fortune will reaſonably admit, towards his comfortable and reſpectable ſupport. Lady Carleton, ever diſpoſed to acts of generoſity, as well as attentive to real merit, concurs with me in that opinion, and omits no kind offices to evince her regard and eſteem. But of this you will judge better when we have the pleaſure to ſee you. —— On the

lawn

lawn that leads to my houſe lives a muſty old batchelor, whoſe niggardly ſoul would never ſuffer him to take a female companion, while the abſurd and groundleſs apprehenſion of living long enough to want will not permit him to take the comforts of life: He exiſts neither for himſelf nor ſociety, a very cumberer of the earth; and as his ſuſpicion and miſtruſt will not let him dare to venture his adored mammon in the public funds, it is locked in an iron cheſt, which attracts his ſoul as the magnet does the ſteel, nor can he reſt a moment at eaſe if it is out of his ſight. — When

the grim king of terrors ſnatches ſuch a mortal from this ſcene of exiſtence, it will prove a ſtroke not inimical to the intereſts of humanity, as his preſent uſeleſs hoard may probably devolve to a poſſeſſor who will appropriate it to laudable purpoſes. — You will pardon the prolixity of this letter, in which I have branched out into ſome wild ſallies of fancy. My preſent ſituation affords me time to ruminate on a diverſity of ſubjects, and I think this unbounded freedom of communicating our ſentiments, the life of epiſtolary correſpondence: A mere adherence to preſcribed rules, modes, and

forms, can never pleaſe the fancy, nor warm the heart; while the indulgence of an exuberant imagination may produce ſuch ideas as ſhall furniſh a rich repaſt for the mind, and in a very eſſential degree realiſe friendly intercourſe in the perſonal abſence.—But, wiſhing the ſpeedy preſence of Mr. and Mrs. Boyle,

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

G. CARLETON.

LETTER XLII.

LADY BALTIMORE,

TO

MRS. BOYLE.

My dear Emily,

I WOULD not interrupt your felicity by obtruding any trifles of my ſcattered imagination upon your attention, which for ſome days paſt has doubtleſs been engroſſed by more agreeable as well as important objects. But, as I have

have an intereſt in your welfare, and a peculiar pleaſure in your friendſhip, could no longer defer an anxious enquiry after your health, as well as that of Mr. Boyle, for whom, as the partner of my Emily, I hold the greateſt reſpect. —— Colonel Sedly is promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-general, and appointed to go out as ſecond in command of the Company's forces in the Eaſt-Indies. My poor ſiſter was ſtruck with a panic at the firſt intimation of this affecting circumſtance; which, though it may eſſentially redound to their wordly intereſt, threatens a temporary if not laſting

ſepa-

ſeparation from the man of her heart, and cannot, therefore, but fill her mind with the moſt perplexing apprehenſions. — Love generally blinds us to reflection, and ſometimes renders us deaf to the dictates of reaſon; hence, when a girl becomes enamoured of a naval or military hero, ſhe little thinks of the precarious tenure by which ſhe holds his perſon, and he his life. When the knot is tied, and a few months, and ſometimes, perhaps, a few years, have paſſed in mutual bliſs, a mandate is iſſued for his abrupt departure: Honour and intereſt are ſo concerned, that he cannot decline the enterprize,

and

and a gloom overſpreads their minds, on the idea of being thus torn from each others arms. —— I have uſed every effort to conſole her on the occaſion; ſhe ſeems rather more reconciled than at the firſt news; and, as ſhe and the Colonel will dine with us to-morrow, we ſhould be glad to ſee Mr. and Mrs. Boyle. I remain as ever,

Sincerely yours,

C. BALTIMORE.

LETTER XLIII.

SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE

TO

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SEDLY.

Westbury Park.

Dear Sedly,

BY a letter from your lady to Lady Baltimore, I have the pleasure of hearing of your promotion on the one hand, and the mortification of learning that you are shortly to leave us, and many more friends,

on

on the other. I muſt own it is the common fate of a ſoldier, and doubt not, but you will meet the ſame with that intrepidity and reſolution becoming your character. Poor diſconſolate Harriot is the chief object of my pity and concern; and her ſiſter's ſympathy affects me at times ſo ſenſibly, that I almoſt ſink into a melancholy deſpondence. Man being naturally more robuſt of frame, ſeems conſtitutionally diſpoſed to ſuſtain the ſtrokes of precarious events; while the other ſex, of moſt delicate form and habit, cannot but ſink under the preſſure of thoſe circumſtances, which immediately intereſt their tendereſt feelings.

If

If you have a few days to ſpare, let us ſee you both at Weſtbury Park; if otherwiſe, write me by return of poſt, and I will come to town immediately; for my dear Kitty cannot reſt night nor day, till ſhe has an opportunity of attempting at leaſt, to conſole her lovely ſiſter, on the melancholy occaſion.

I find alſo by your lady's letter, that her newly married friend, Mrs. Boyle is much hurt at this unexpected event, as indeed are our friends in general. But I would by no means ſuggeſt a hint that ſhould tend to unman the ſoldier, the preſervation of whoſe honour ought to be his main, his prin-

principal concern: when his country's ſervice calls him forth, and ſingles him out for action, he will be deaf to every inſinuation that can enervate his reſolution, or abate his zeal for the glorious cauſe. I wait with impatience for your anſwer, as to determine my ſtay or departure, and am with truth,

Your's,

ED. BALTIMORE.

LET-

LETTER XLIV.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SEDLY,

TO

SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE.

Dear Ned,

YOUR ſpirited remarks on the unexpected event that has ſo much alarmed our friends in general, have added vigour to my reſolution, and fortified me againſt the influence of my tenderer feelings, conſidered as referring

referring to my parting with the object of my ſincereſt and moſt affectionate attachment.

When I enrolled my name in the military-liſt, I did it not raſhly, without well deliberating on the conſequences of the ſtation into which I was about ſo voluntarily to enter. It was the object of my choice, I felt an irreſiſtible impulſe to ſignalize myſelf in the ſervice of my country. Some laurels I have acquired, and ſhall I tarniſh them by receding, when the honour ſo recently confered, ſhould prompt me to the purſuit of glory with redoubled alacrity? I love my friends and am happy in their ſociety; I

adore

adore my amiable Harriot, and will ever hold her neareſt my heart; but I cannot ſink the man in the huſband, or reſign the ſoldier but with life.

I now have given you both as brother and friend, the ſtate of my opinion and reſolution, in terms which I conceive to be the moſt explicit; your own good ſenſe and judgment will make the inference. As it will be rather inconvenient for us to come down to Weſtbury Park, having numberleſs preparations to make, and matters to ſettle previouſly to my embarkation, which I ſuppoſe will be in the courſe of a month; you will do us the favour

to

to come up to town, where you will have it in your power to render us many kind offices; and particularly to fortify in ſome degree the mind of my Harriot, for the trial under which ſhe muſt unavoidably paſs. We are with love and reſpect,

Moſt ſincerely your's,

SEDLY.

LET-

LETTER XLV.

MRS. BOYLE

TO HER

HON. MRS. RAWDON.

Carleton Abbey.

My dear Louiſa,

HERE am I, with my dear Bob, to contemplate in retirement the pleaſures that flow from mutual affection. Carleton, from a profeſſed rake, is abſolutely become

both

both a natural and moral philoſopher. He is continually giving us lectures upon every thing almoſt we ſee and hear; and indeed I muſt own there occurs a great variety of ſubjects that may well be improved to the purpoſes both of entertainment and inſtruction. The ſpring begins to peep forth, and as the weather of the laſt two months has been uncommonly ſevere, the country people hope their expectations will not be fruſtrated by a future blight. If the weather admit, we commonly ride out or walk in the garden for an hour or two in the warmeſt part of the day; if otherwiſe, Lady Carleton,

who has an excellent voice and admirable finger, entertains us with a ſong accompanied on the harpſichord. After dinner, the uſual themes are our flights of youth, tales of gallantry, love adventures, &c. between each of which are occaſionally introduced ſonnets adapted to the particular ſubjects. Lady Carleton frequently entertains us with a detail of my Lord's attempting to carry her off, with the interpoſition of her brother on the occaſion; and embelliſhes her ſtories with a number of pleaſing anecdotes and pertinent reflections.—There is a clergyman, the curate of the pariſh, who contributes greatly

greatly to our amuſement. He is a man learned without pedantry, polite without affectation, and religious without oſtentation or bigotry.—His converſation ſavours of wit and humour, but is never frothy, frivolous, or immoral. Thus we paſs our time in innocent recreation; and the variation of the ſcene from the noiſe, buſtle, and parade of the town, proves extremely agreeable both as to the ſtate of body and mind, which are very ſenſibly relieved, by thus deverſifying the objects of purſuit.—Upon our return to London, we ſhall take the firſt opportunity of paying our reſpects in perſon to

Colonel and Mrs. Rawdon, till when I remain with moſt cordial wiſhes, for your welfare and proſperity.

Your moſt humble ſervant,

EMELIA BOYLE.

LETTER XLVI.

THE HON. MRS. RAWDON.

TO

MRS. BOYLE.

IT always gives me, my dear Emily, a ſenſible pleaſure to hear of every event, circumſtance, and ſituation in life, that ſeems to increaſe your happineſs and promote your intereſt. You have now quitted

ted the buſy ſcene, and are ſolacing yourſelf with the man of your heart, in the innocent and agreeable recreations of the country.—But from the reſpect I bear you, I muſt be free enough to diſcloſe, that I cannot admit of Lord and Lady Carleton's engroſſing the company and ſociety of our friends, and expect to ſee you ſoon at Rawdon Place, whither we repair next week. I have been informed that Colonel Sedley is promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General, and appointed ſecond in command of the Company's forces in the Eaſt Indies, for which quarter he is to embark in the courſe of a month.

— This

— This muſt be an affecting ſtroke to our dear Harriot, who had, doubtleſs, promiſed herſelf a conſiderable ſeries of uninterrupted enjoyment in the agreeable ſociety of the man, to whom ſhe is tied by the moſt ſolemn and indiſſoluble bands. I find he is inflexibly bent to purſue his fortune in the Eaſt, and that entertaining the niceſt ſenſe of honour as a ſoldier, no argument can prevail with him to decline the enterprize; however I am determined to do all I can to render this unavoidable and poignant event as tolerable as poſſible to his amiable lady: pray let me

hear from you ſhortly, and ſee you as ſoon as convenient, and believe me to be with unfeigned reſpect,

Your's,

LOUISA RAWDON.

LET-

LETTER XLVII.

LADY BALTIMORE

TO

MRS. SEDLEY.

London.

My deareſt Siſter,

I NEED not tell you how ſincerely I ſympathize with you on the unfortunate event that calls for the abſence of your beſt friend and deareſt companion. We made no delay in hurrying up to town,

though if matters could have been accommodated, ſhould much rather have ſeen you both at Weſtbury Park. From the letters which paſſed between Sir Edward and the General, I find no conſideration or perſuaſion prevail with him to decline the expedition. Sir Edward, though much attached to his friendſhip and company, applauds his reſolution as a man and a ſoldier, and would by no means be acceſſary to any inſtance that might ſully the reputation he has acquired, or caſt the ſhadow of an impeachment on his courage or his honour.

It is hard, I am perſuaded, to reconcile a fond woman to the abſence of the object of her affection; but we cannot love a man truly or ſincerely, without being tenacious of his character; I mean as perſons of rank, who regard an elevated ſtation in life from proper principles. — You will ſay, it is eaſy for people not immediately intereſted in thoſe very nice and delicate concerns, to give advice; but extremely difficult for thoſe who are affected in the moſt feeling and exquiſite manner to take it. I grant the truth of thoſe remarks laid down by myſelf to obviate

your complaint. But there is one maxim I have to recommend to your obſervation and practice, which is, that it is at once our duty and intereſt, and conſequently eſſential to our happineſs, to ſubmit to ſuch diſpenſations of Providence, as cannot be adverted, nor repine at circumſtances which come within the the ſcale of our particular ſituation in life. — Commend me to the General, together with Sir Edward, and aſſure him, that we expect the pleaſure of your company to dinner to-morrow; on which occaſion, as we ſhall have matters to deliberate on, that immediately

affect ourſelves in a relative capacity; care will be taken that there may be no interruption from promiſcuous viſitors.

I am, moſt truly,

Your affectionate ſiſter,

C. BALTIMORE.

LET-

LETTER XLVIII.

MRS. SEDLEY

TO

LADY BALTIMORE

Dear Sister,

I THANK you for the advice contained in your laſt, and will endeavour to follow it as far as the force of my affection will permit. There is much truth and reaſon I confeſs in what you lay down for my

my obſervation and practice; but what can frail woman do, alas! under the power of an uncontrollable paſſion? Lord Baltimore is doubtleſs the beſt of men and huſbands; but when he took you, he well knew your birth, rank, and former circumſtances; nay, he was even your near relation. Not ſo the generous, the liberal, the benevolent Sedley, who knew neither my rank, character, nor former ſituation; but offered me his hand from the moſt diſtinguiſhed principles, and took me as a child of misfortune, helpleſs and forlorn: — and then can it be poſſible I ſhould, for one moment, loſe a due ſenſe of the ineſtimable merit of

my

my patron, protector, nay I will add at once, husband and father? forbid it duty; forbid it gratitude. —But I must crave your pardon for the warmth of expression into which I am hurried, by the prevalence of an unconquerable attachment, and believe that I will summons all the fortitude I can muster to bear the ills of fortune (for such I must call the late incident and its consequences) becoming a woman; more cannot be done. The General presents his respects, and will, with me, attend you to-morrow.

I am your's affectionately,

HAR. SEDLEY.

LETTER XLIX.

R. BOYLE, ESQ.

TO

SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE.

Carleton Abbey.

Dear Ned,

AS I find the circumſtance of of your brother-in-law's ſpeedy depature for the Eaſt Indies has brought you to town, I ſhall take the earlieſt opportunity of paying you

you my reſpects, together with Mrs. Boyle's. Sedley, I am happy to hear, bears the idea of his approaching ſeparation with a ſpirit he has ever ſupported, worthy of his character. — Harriot is an amiable enchanting creature beyond doubt, and it requires a degree of philoſophy, as well as magnanimity, to leave ſo precious a treaſure. — We have not yet paſſed the *honey moon*; and I cannot anſwer for myſelf in what manner I ſhould be affected, or how I ſhould act in ſo trying a ſituation. My heart at preſent is rivetted to my Emily; however, why ſhould I ſuppoſe an

event

event which in my circumſtances cannot poſſibly befall me? whatever may be my opinion or reſolution as to myſelf in ſuch a caſe; Sedley's conduct muſt be univerſally approved, or juſtifiable upon every principle of honour and juſtice.—We ſpend our time very agreeably here; Lord and Lady Carleton are extremely obliging, and do every thing in their power to render our ſituation perfectly happy. The latter poſſeſſes various requiſites to divert and entertain: ſhe ſings well, plays admirably on the harpſichord and guittar, and tells a ſtory with infinite grace, humour and ſpirit;

in

in ſhort, her Ladyſhip is the life of the company. There is a peculiar gratification in ſhifting the ſcene; which from long continuance ever palls and diſguſts me, whether it be the pompous parade and buſtle of the town; or the ſtill and peaceful ſolitude of the country. 'Tis novelty and variety that give a zeſt to enjoyment, as muſt appear evidently from the active nature of the mind of man. We ſhall be in town in a few days, when I ſhall do myſelf the pleaſure of waiting on you, and hope to take my good friend the General by the hand, and heartily wiſh him ſucceſs on

his

his departure. Commend me to your Lady and all friends, and believe me to be

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

R. BOYLE.

LETTER L.

SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE

TO

R. BOYLE, ESQ.

I Rejoice, my dear Sir, to find you are ſo agreeably ſituated, together with your lovely Louiſa, in the manſion of the Lord of Carleton Abbey. However I cannot help obſerving, that you ſeem rather partial

partial to his Lordſhip, from your long continuance on that ſpot. Mrs. Rawdon hinted to us, by means of a friend of her's who lately called with her compliments and thoſe of the Colonel; that ſhe could not approve of his Lordſhip's engroſſing your company, and therefore expected to ſee you ſhortly at Rawdon Place. Upon my honour, as you ſhare the regard and eſteem of your friends in general, I muſt frankly declare, you ſhould divide your viſits, and let them all have a part. This promiſed, you muſt permit me to prefer my claim, and require your preſence by turn, either in town or

at

at Weſtbury Park.—I can vouch for myſelf, and anſwer for Lady Baltimore, that we are as ſincerely concerned for your welfare and happineſs, as any of your moſt ſanguine friends. Pray, then, let me have an opportunity of teſtifying the ſame. My brother Sedley is in high ſpirits, and extremely active in making the neceſſary preparations.—I hope it will prove one of the happieſt events of his life, and that he will return to embrace his beloved Harriot, laden with wealth and honour.

Adieu,

E. BALTIMORE.

LETTER LI.

LADY CARLETON

TO

THE HON. MRS. RAWDON.

Carleton Abbey.

My dear Sister,

A Conſiderable time has elapſed ſince I had the pleaſure of ſeeing you, which has often caſt a gloom over our ſcenes of mirth and conviviality. Our intimacy was heightened by the moſt agreeable and pleaſing

intercourſe, before we became related by marriage; let us not then reſemble the too faſhionable part of the world, by growing diſtant becauſed allied by the ties of conſanguinity. The ſudden departure of General Sedly, will bring Colonel Rawdon to town, I ſuppoſe, in order to take leave of his gallant friend; you will of courſe accompany him: this I believe, will be the caſe with my Lord; if it ſhould, the ſame circumſtances will bring me up likewiſe.

We have had the new married couple with us, ſome time, and I hear many of our and their acquaintances

tances are not a little piqued at the ſame; but as the like occaſion will, I think, produce their removal, it will, I hope, obviate every diſagreeable prejudice that might interrupt that unanimity that has long prevailed, and I truſt, will continue amongſt general friends, apparently attached from the moſt liberal and diſintereſted principles. Mr. and Mrs. Boyle are a very agreeable couple, and ſeem formed by ſimiliarity of diſpoſition to render each other mutually happy. When in town, they will be free to the invitation of their other friends, who may then embrace the opportunity

of their company. Sir Edward and Lady Baltimore will doubtleſs be too much taken up with the immediate concerns of their relation, General Sedly, on the point of departing, to enter into any parties, or give invitations for ſome time at leaſt; you may therefore without infringing the rule of decorum, requeſt their company at Rawdon Place on your return. If you can bring this about, I will immediately join you with Lord Carleton, in which caſe, I think we may promiſe ourſelves abundance of pleaſure. Preſent our kind love to my brother,

ther, and believe me to be, my dear Louisa,

Your's

Most affectionately,

CHARLOTTE CARLETON.

LETTER LII.

THE HON. MRS. RAWDON

TO

LADY CARLETON.

My dear Charlotte,

IMAGINE not that any hint which might eſcape me in the hour of levity, was dictated by an undue regard and eſteem for friends in general, or to thoſe to whom I am attached by ſuch ties as muſt ever

ever bind me to them in particular. From our firſt acquaitance, you know, there was a kind of flighty humour of diſpoſition about me, which I could never throw entirely off; it will ſometimes prevail ſtill: ſo much you will permit me to offer, and requeſt you to receive by way of apology, in which with thoſe I truly reſpect, I cannot bear prolixity. I think the ſimilar reſolution of the parties to come up to town, to pay their compliments to the General on his departure, does them honour and him juſtice. He is a man of a moſt amiable character, has given a noble proof of his diſin-

tereſted affection, in the inſtance of the lovely Harriot Baltimore; and in every reſpect deported himſelf in a manner becoming the gentlemen and the ſoldier.

Your advice concerning the invitation of the new married couple, I ſhall take the earlieſt opportunity of embracing; and ſhall be happy by the fulfillment of your promiſe, on which, from your former punctuality, I place the firmeſt reliance. Nothing can afford me more ſupreme delight than to recognize former ſcenes of youthful folic and levity, and from the early ſtate of our friendſhip, I truſt its period will

not end but with life, as I feel I must ever remain

Your's

Most truly,

LOUISA RAWDON.

LETTER LIII.

SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE TO COLONEL RAWDON.

Dear Charles,

YOUR kind and generous inſtance of quitting the pleaſures of rural retirement, and coming to town with no other view than that of taking my brother Sedly by the hand, at his leaving us, I conſider

as

as a favour done to me, being ſo intimately connected with him, both as relation and friend. Next Sunday he ſets off for Portſmouth, in order to embark. I ſhall therefore ſend cards of invitation to our little ſelect party, to dine with me on next Friday; on which occaſion I need not aſſure you, that your company with that of Mrs. Rawdon, will afford a particular pleaſure. Boyle and his lady are come to town with Lord and Lady Carleton; who, with the General and his lovely Harriot, and yourſelves, will comprize the whole party invited. I hope Charles no man is warmer

in his profeſſions, or more religiouſly adheres to them, than I endeavour to do; but I own I was never fond of extending the circle of my acquaintance to an extenſive limit. Indeed, from what little experience I have collected through obſervation of mankind, ſince I attained to years of maturity, it appears to me both ſilly and inexpedient. As my fortune is competent, and my mind happily exempt from the curſe of ambition or avarice, I regard not popularity; and as I truſt, I bear ſome love to truth and candour, I abhor a ſycophant: therefore, as amongſt a numerous acquaintance, there muſt of courſe be mixed ſome

at leaſt, of thoſe odious and deſpicable characters; in order to avoid them if poſſible, I determine to have but few acquaintances, and much fewer denominated friends. — But a truce to moralizing — and as I perſuade myſelf I need no argument to convince you, I ſhall meerly ſubſcribe myſelf

Your ſincere Friend, and

Humble Servant,

ED. BALTIMORE.

LET.

LETTER LIV.

COLONEL RAWDON

TO

SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE.

Dear Sir,

YOU write to me with your uſual frankneſs and ſincerity; and upon the ſame principle, I wiſh as ingenuouſly to declare, that I hold myſelf bound upon every occaſion that offers, to teſtify the eſteem and reſpect

reſpect Mr. and Mrs. Rawdon bear their approved friends, Sir Edward and Lady Baltimore. The alliance between General Sedly and your family, does you mutual honour; it is founded on the baſis of virtue, and will of courſe be perpetuated by the ſame laudable means. In our earlier correſpondence, you expreſſed the keeneſt ſenſation at the fate of your lovely couſins; and in conjunction with the efforts of my adorable Louiſa, reſcued them from oblivion, and conduced to raiſe them to a ſtate of honour and happineſs equal to their rank and merit. The generous Sedly con-

curred

curred in the benevolent design, and ſelected the lovely Harriot as his partner for life. You ſeem therefore to be connected by more than the ordinary ties of form, and attached to each other from conſiderations peculiarly endearing.

We ſhall punctually attend to your invitation on Friday next, and propoſe to ourſelves much ſatisfaction in forming a part of ſo agrecable a company. Poor Louiſa is much affected by the fate of her dear friend Harriot; nor will any endeavours be wanting on her part to conſole her. She propoſes on the departure of the General, to re-

queſt

queſt her company as long as agreeable at Rawdon Place; and if you, and Lady Baltimore will favour us with your preſence at the ſame time, I preſume it will have a better effect towards amuſing Mrs. Sedly, than if ſhe was to retire to Weſtbury Park; becauſe ſhe will there be within the immediate ſcope of her relations, who cannot but diſcover ſome concern for the ſame cauſe which gave riſe and will doubtleſs be, in ſome degree, the ſource of her anxiety during the abſence of her beloved conſort. But this I ſubmit to your better judgment, and ſubſcribe

ſcribe myſelf, with the greateſt eſteem,

Your moſt

Obedient Servant,

CHARLES RAWDON.

LET.

LETTER LV.

THE HON. MRS. RAWDON

TO

LADY BALTIMORE.

My dear Kitty,

BEFORE I took my leave of the party at your houſe, I called your ſiſter aſide, and in the moſt preſſing manner requeſted that ſhe would accompany me, and the Colonel down to Rawdon Place, in the courſe

courſe of next week; ſhe politely declined immediate acceptance of the invitation, as ſhe was not determined as to her accompanying the General to Portſmouth. However that may be, I muſt entreat you to enforce your advice in the caſe. If ſhe ſhould go, and the winds detain him there, I muſt deſire you to obtain her promiſe, to come down with you as ſoon as convenient, after her return: if otherwiſe, the ſooner you ſet off the better; as I hope we ſhall find ſome means to diſpel that gloom that has ſo viſibly fixed both on her countenance and your's, for the abſence of ſo loving a huſband and ſo affectionate a brother.

I ſhall

I ſhall not determine on our own departure 'till I know your reſolution.

Adieu! and believe me

Your's ſincerely,

LOUISA RAWDON.

LETTER LVI.

RADY BALTIMORE

TO

MRS. SEDLY.

My dear Harriot,

YOU had not been ſet off two hours for Portſmouth, before Mrs. Rawdon ſent me a letter by her ſervant, importunately requeſting me to urge the invitation ſhe gave you, before ſhe took her leave of

of you at our houſe. I will ſay no more at preſent on the ſubject, becauſe I am ſenſible your thoughts are ſo entirely engroſſed by other objects, as totally to exclude any thing foreign to them. Compoſe yourſelf as well as you can; conſider that hundreds have been, and are in your ſituation; and if no other motive can have weight with you, be aſſured, that by diſcovering tokens of immediate grief, you will wound the feelings of the man that adores you, and hurt the peace of mind of one, who lives but for you. But as I know you will not, cannot be ſo cruel, I ſhall cloſe the ungrateful ſubject, and only requeſt

you

you to give me a line of information, before you set off for town. My best wishes attend you both; believe I shall ever remain your's

Most affectionately,

C. BALTIMORE.

LET-

LETTTER LVII.

MRS. SEDLY

TO

LADY BALTIMORE.

Portſmouth.

Dear Kitty,

I HAVE loſt (how long, is only known to the Diſpoſer of all events) my huſband, my father, my friend. The fatal moment arrived — we embraced, cordially embraced at parting. —— I left the ſhip with ſome

other ladies, but could not leave the beach, till the veſſel which conveyed my all of bliſs was out of ſight. What I then felt, ſurpaſſes expreſſion; nor would I wiſh my direſt foe to experience the ſame. The dangers of the ſeas, the dangers of the climes, and dangers of the enemy, preſented at once to my view, ſo horrid a picture, as thrilled my very ſoul. I remember to have read in Dryden's Tranſlation of Virgil, the ſtory of Dido's parting with Æneas. I then thought the detail beautifully romantic, and the paſſions finely worked up by the poet; but now I am ready to ſubſcribe, not only to the

the probability, but the poſſibility of ſo ſtriking, ſo affecting a narrative. I have realized the ſame, nor can all the wit, or all the ſophiſtry of man invalidate the evidence, the all powerful evidence of my ſenſes. 'Tis a pleaſing, though a painful taſk, to unboſom one's woes, and recount even the moſt poignant ſtrokes of fortune to a tried, and approved friend. You will then pardon, my deareſt Kitty, the ſallies into which I have been impertinently hurried, and impute them to the real cauſe, which is no other, than an unbounded affection, which cannot, in any degree, be ſuppreſſed, but with life.

It is near three o'clock; to-morrow I ſhall ſet off for town.

Adieu!

HARRIOT SEDLY.

LET-

LETTER LVIII.

SIR EDWARD BALTIMORE

TO THE

HON. MRS. RAWDON

Dear Madam,

LADY Baltimore has this inſtant received a line from her ſiſter, acquainting her that ſhe ſets out as this day for town; but there is not a ſyllable about her reſolution as to your kind invitation to Raw-

don Place. The epiſtle is extremely rhapſodical and ſeems dictated by the very phrenzy of Love. Harriot out-does us all in her matrimonial attachment, and ſeems to exhibit a pattern of conjugal fidelity unrivalled by the wives of the preſent age. If it be a little overſtrained, and very unfaſhionable, it is yet more than pardonable, becauſe, being an error on the right ſide, it becomes of courſe in ſome degree commendable. Beſides, as it is founded on gratitude as well as love, it is thereby rendered highly laudable — Yeſterday I had a viſit from Lady Betty Modely, Lady Lucy Modely, and Lady Mary Lenox, who are juſt returned

returned from France. The two former ſeem to have imported with them all the fopperies and volatility of that flippant nation, which added to their natural frivolity, renders them complete characters — of what kind I will not venture to determine; becauſe it would be the higheſt arrogance to dictate to ſuch as muſt be allowed from their own obſervations and good ſenſe, competent to judge for themſelves. Lady Mary Lenox is juſt the ſame, unaffectedly polite, ſprightly, and affable; neither altered by difference of clime or manners, but the very Lady Mary that ſet off for Paris, and is returned — For my own

part I am by no means an enemy to travelling, making the tour of Europe, or ſeeing the world, as it is called: but I aver that it is neceſſary to form the mind and complete the characters, previouſly to be well acquainted with our own country, both in a local and moral ſenſe; for unleſs ſome ſtandard is fixed as to cuſtoms and manners; the mind is ever liable to be warped by falſhood and folly, and the traveller, not capable of ſeparating what is eligible from what is rejectable; is rather diſpoſed to adopt the latter, and returns not only no wiſer, but leſs formed than he went: but as you, Madam, are a glaring exception

tion

tion to this kind of characters. I drop theſe remarks to avoid the imputation of impertinence, and with Lady Baltimore's compliments, ſubſcribe myſelf

Your moſt obedient

Humble Servant,

E. BALTIMORE.

P. S. You will not deem Lady Baltimore wanting in reſpect for not writing; as ſince the abſence of her ſiſter, ſhe has been rather indiſpoſed.

LETTER LIX.

THE HON. MRS. RAWDON

TO

MRS. BOYLE.

I Hope my dear Emily enjoys the ſame happy ſtate of health, and of mind, as when I laſt had the pleaſure of ſeeing her at Sir Edward Baltimore's on the melancholy occaſion of our poor friend Harriot's parting with her

her beloved General Sedley. As Sir Edward informed me by letter, his ſiſter was ſet off for town, I ſhall to-morrow morning ſend my ſervant with a card of invitation to tea the day following, and deſire you would be kind enough to take this notice, and let us have the pleaſure of your company; and if Mr. Boyle joins you, it will be the more agreeable. I aſſure you I derived much amuſement, not to ſay inſtruction, from Sir Edward's epiſtle, for which he apologized on account of his lady's indiſpoſition, who ſeemed you know extremely to ſympathize with her poor diſtreſſed Harriot. I think he's a mighty entertaining correſpondent

 truly;

truly; for he threw off moſt happily on the two ladies, Betty and Lucy Modely, who are juſt returned from France, with Lady Mary Lenox, and in his deſcription of thoſe two females, according to my opinion, held the mirror up to nature. You'll ſay I am ſevere, and partake of the envy too prevalent with our ſex; but I cannot avoid cenſuring the egregious follies of vanity, affectation, and conceit wherever I find them; and am ever concerned to ſee our Britiſh belles exchange thoſe charms they derive from nature, for the paltry artificial ornaments of carmine, and eſpecially that moſt deſtructive of lures uſed by way of enamel.

enamel. Some of the fineſt of our countrywomen have fallen victims to this pernicious cuſtom, yet ſuch is the influence of evil example, and the prevalence of foreign modes, that they ſtill prevail as much as ever, and counteract reaſon, nature, and common ſenſe. I know but of one mode of rooting out this evil, from the circle of women of character at leaſt: this is a general reſolution amongſt all the handſome young fellows, never to kiſs a female, whoſe face or neck is plaſtered with rouge or whitewaſh--But I forgot that your once gay friend Louiſa Chambers, is become the married woman; however,

ever, as my opinion on the ſubject is juſt the ſame now, as it then was, and I believe ever will be; I think I have a right to communicate it without the imputation of violating the rules of matrimonial decorum. I know my Emily is as averſe to the practice as myſelf, and will therefore moſt friendly concur with me in opinion. Don't fail our little tea-table party, as I ſhall want your aſſiſtance, to diſpel poor Harriot's gloom, and bring her a little to herſelf again — perhaps I may require the ſame friendly aid on a like occaſion, ſo it will be only practiſing the golden rule, in doing as I would

be

be done by.—Farewel 'till then, and believe me to be, with great ſincerity

Your's,

L. RAWDON.

LET-

LETTER LX.

LADY MARY LENOX

TO

LADY CARLETON.

My dear Charlotte,

AT length I have the pleaſure of returning to England, after my travels; what improvements I have made by them, my old friends will decide for themſelves. My expectations were not upon the whole diſappointed; I found ſome few things worthy

worthy of imitation; but numberleſs more to be avoided. What are there called (I mean in France) freedom and eaſe, we eſteem in this rougher clime, indecency and forwardneſs: and for a man from a principle of politeneſs, to abſent himſelf, leſt he ſhould interrupt his wife's enjoyment of the company of a male friend or companion; would here be deemed nothing more or leſs than a connivance at proſtitution, or living avowedly on the wages of diſhonour.

They ſeem to have given riſe to the manners which prevail throughout courts in general; and carry the faſhions to the very extreme.

If,

If, to appear what we are not, to ſpeak what we think, think not to do what we like not, to praiſe what we approve not; if, in ſhort, to reverſe as it were our perſons, as well as opinions, for reaſons and cauſes too obvious to need explanation, can conſtitute the accompliſhed courtier — Verſailles is the place — though I muſt ſay we have ſome excellent copyiſts, who exhibit their productions at St. James's. But leſt you ſhould be tired with reading this account of mine — here break we off. Adieu, dear Charlotte.

M. LENOX.

LET-

LETTER LXI.

LORD CARLETON

TO

COLONEL RAWDON.

Dear Charles,

I Have had an entertainment conveyed by way of epiſtle, to your ſiſter, that has afforded me infinite pleaſure. It is a ſketch of French manners and cuſtoms, drawn by a female hand; and I aſſure you it does

does no diſcredit to the ſex: amongſt the painters is Lady Mary Lenox; who is lately returned from the tour of France, and has favoured Lady Carleton with a very pretty moral picture of that nation, drawn from the life, and founded on perſonal obſervations — Lady Mary blends ſome humour with her ſatire, has novelty in ſome of her remarks, and much poignancy in ſome of her concluſions. — I own, I ſhould not wiſh for a wife poſſeſſed of quite ſo much underſtanding, or quite ſo much wit; and though I cannot ſubſcribe with Pomfret,

"That the effect of woman's wit is ſuch,
"Too little is leſs dangerous than too much."

becauſe

becauſe I would by no means pay the ſex ſo coarſe a compliment; yet I ſhould be full as well content with a mediocrity in that particular, as in many others — However, I am provided, and muſt be content, Charles, as will you, if you are wiſe. If we cannot boaſt of the heads of our wives, we challenge the female world to excell their hearts; and that with me, and I believe with you, is the main, the only point of eſſential conſequence, becauſe eſſential to conjugal happineſs. — My Charlotte has one quality enchanting in its nature; ſhe may truly be ſaid to have muſic in her

ſoul;

ſoul; which has a fine effect, when minds are ſweetly altered through an union of diſpoſition. Your Louiſa is not wanting in that accompliſhment, and to crown all, they are both encircled with the girdle of Venus, GOOD NATURE, and muſt appear loudly in the eye of every beholder, ſo long as they ſhall appear viſibly to wear it. I ſeem to have caught fire from Lady Mary; or rather my imagination may have been warmed by reflecting on what I have ſeen in the world, and experienced at home.

Mrs. Sedly is returned from Portſmouth, having ſeen the laſt of her dear

dear General. Let me know if ſhe accepts your invitation to Rawdon-Place; as we may in a little propoſed excurſion, when the ſeaſon advances, give you a call, and ſo join with you a day or two, as we may with Sir Edward Baltimore, at Weſtbury-Park. — If we carry our itinerary project into execution, we ſhall viſit all our friends in turn; which will afford a pleaſing variety, and prove equally ſalutary to body and mind. — Improvement may be drawn from every occurrence and viciſſitude in human life; and if we can ſo manage affairs, as to render the ſcenes of our lives at once uſeful to others, and entertaining to our-

ſelves; we may then be ſaid not to have lived in vain, and ſo my dear friend and brother, farewel: — the curtain drops for the preſent.

CARLETON.

THE END.

4 DE 58